Hafa Adai!

Resolution seeks to approve $172.5M for FY 2024. PAGE 7

NiziU collaborates with MVA on $1.2M YouTube exposure. PAGE 12

$1

Saipan Tribune

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MONDAY JULY 10, 2023

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Looming fiscal crisis at CUC

- $25M rooftops solar program seen to impact CUC finances
- 'CUC might get hit hard in the next year or two'

Epiphanio E. Cabrera Jr. speaks during the public comments portion of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board meeting last Friday.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government is about to receive a $25-million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the installation of solar panels on rooftops of homes in the CNMI and this is expected to take a big chunk out of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s electric power base load.

See LOOMING on Page 4

OAG moves to junk Torres' petition vs DOF

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has filed a motion to dismiss former governor Ralph DLG Torres' suit against the Department of Finance and the OAG over the validity of special prosecutor James Kingman's contract.

OAG Chief Solicitor Robert Glass Jr. has filed a motion to dismiss Torres' petition for judicial review, arguing that a dismissal of the petition is warranted because Torres is in error on all points.

"He has improperly brought the OAG into the suit, he has failed to exhaust administrative remedies, the issue is not ripe for judicial determination, and he lacks standing as he has not been aggrieved by the contract," Glass said.

Torres filed the petition for judicial review of Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita's

See OAG on Page 4

House bill limits governor's powers over public funds

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
82

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

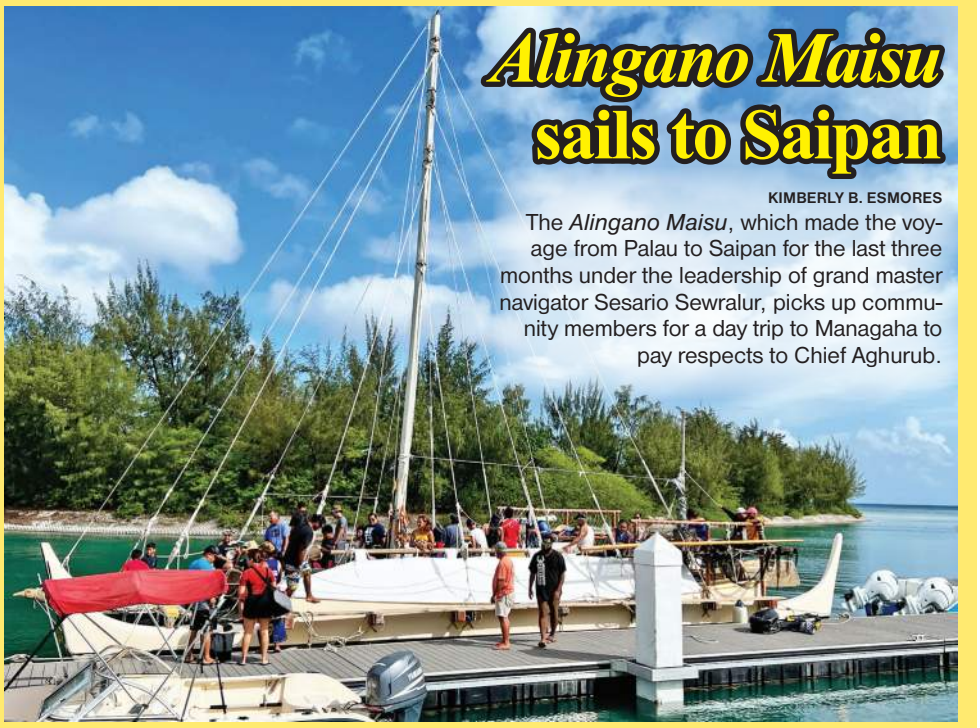
The House of Representatives passed Friday a bill that essentially clips the emergency powers of the governor over public funds by ensuring that the expenditure authority designated in the Annual Appropriation Act will retain exclusive control over all funds appropriated to it.

With 18 House members present at the session voting "yes," House Bill 23-27, House Draft 1, now goes to the Senate for action.

Reps. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) and Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) were absent but excused.

Under the bill, a Legisla-

See HOUSE on Page 4



Alingano Maisu sails to Saipan

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The *Alingano Maisu*, which made the voyage from Palau to Saipan for the last three months under the leadership of grand master navigator Sesario Sewralur, picks up community members for a day trip to Managaha to pay respects to Chief Aghurub.

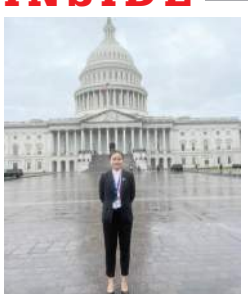
By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The twin-hulled traditional vessel *Alingano Maisu*, captained by master navigator Sesario Sewralur, made its first voyage from Palau to Saipan since the global COVID-19 pandemic halted most travels, docking at the Smiling Cover Marina during the duration of their stay.

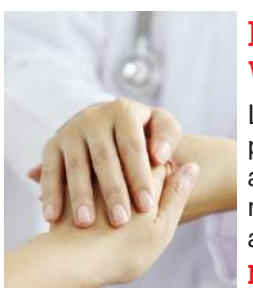
In celebration of its suc-

See ALINGANO on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL
Linxi Cai of Saipan International School is awarded the Congressional Award Gold Medal
PAGE 2



HEALTH & WELLNESS
Low libido is a common problem that affects adults everywhere, yet many people never talk about it.
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
No charges will be filed in the altercation between Britney Spears and Victor Wembanyama.
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Local

SIS student's achievements win congressional recognition

WASHINGTON, D.C— Linxi Cai of Saipan International School, who was in the school's Class of 2023, was one of several students nationwide who have been awarded the esteemed Congressional Award Gold Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. Congress on the nation's youth.

Cai, who was the only CNMI student receiving the award this year in Washington, D.C., was presented with the medal at the 2023 Gold Medal Summit, which was hosted by The Congressional Award Foundation in Washington, D.C. from June 20 to June 22, 2023.

Cai was the Class of 2023 Salutatorian and will attend Amherst College, the No. 2 ranked liberal arts college in the United States, in the fall.

The Congressional Award recognizes the remarkable initiative, service, and achievement demonstrated by the medalists. As the first in-person Gold Medal celebration since 2019, The 2023 Gold Medal Summit served as a platform to celebrate their efforts and inspire the next generation of leaders.

The summit brought together exceptional young individuals who had earned the Congressional Award Gold Medal, showcasing their outstanding accomplishments and commitment to community service.

During the event, gold medalists had the unique opportunity to meet and engage with Members of Congress, fostering a deeper understanding and connection between these exceptional youth leaders and their elected representatives. Over 100 individual meetings with members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate took place, providing a platform for meaningful dialogue and enabling participants to discuss important issues and share their personal experiences.

A notable highlight of the summit was the lineup of dynamic panel discussions on key topics. In collaboration with the Congressional Award's STEM Stars initiative partner, Ferring Pharmaceuticals, the "STEM Education" panel focused on promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. The "Service & Advocacy" panel highlighted the significance of community service and advocacy efforts in driving positive change. The "Women Empowerment" panel explored the role of women leaders in society and emphasized the importance of gender equality. The "Pathway to Career" panel provided insights and guidance on building successful careers and pursuing meaningful professional pathways.

The gold medalists also had the chance to network with distinguished board members and industry leaders who shared their passion for community service and personal development. These connections sparked valuable insights and inspired participants to further their own initiatives.

"The 2023 Gold Medal Summit was an incredible celebration of the exceptional achievements of our Congressional Award Gold Medalists from across the country," said Paxton Baker, chairman of the board of directors at The Congressional Award. "We witnessed firsthand the transformative power of youth leadership and their commitment to making a positive difference in society. The summit provided a platform for recognition, inspiration, and networking that will propel these young leaders to even greater heights." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Linxi Cai of Saipan International School meets with CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) soon after being presented with the Congressional Award Gold Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. Congress on the nation's youth.

Free NMC info session on July 12

Community members who want to advance their careers and expand their educational pursuits are invited to attend Northern Marianas College's free info session on Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 7pm in rooms K1 and K2 at NMC's As Terlaje campus. The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and admissions.

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2023 semester—a savings of about $75. Individuals who are planning to attend are asked to fill out the online registration form: https://bit.ly/3NGXQDf

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (with concentrations in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (with a concentration in Accounting or without a concentration), Associate of Arts in Business, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (with emphasis in Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications), Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts (with emphasis in Education, Health and Physical Education, Pre-Engineering, Social Work, or without emphasis), Associate of Science in Nursing, Associate of Science in Agriculture, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management, Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Associate of Science in Fire Science Technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

NMC's fall 2023 semester will begin on Aug. 21, 2023. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Leadership forum at SHRM meeting

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will host a general membership meeting today, July 10, 2023, at the Saipan World Resort Sunflower Ballroom, from 11am to 2:30pm. Doors will open at 10:450am.

Catherine Nelson, general manager for FranklinCovey in Australia & New Zealand, will be running a session about "The Future of Leadership," a two-hour forum involving discussions on how to build leadership culture.

This meeting will include lunch. The cost to attend is $35 for SHRM members and $45 for future members.

One person per one entry. One representative may submit multiple entries for each participant under their company. ***(SHRM)***

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CUC board OKs night differential pay for employees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors approved Friday a $1.50 per hour of night differential premium pay for those doing off-island utility assistance work and for on-island employees.

At CUC board's regular board meeting, all members agreed to grant night differential premium pay for off-island employees or those who have been sent to Guam, from 6pm to 6am effective last June 4.

The board also approved night differential premium pay for on-island employees from 8pm to 6am effective Oct. 1, 2023.

Before the voting, acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje recommended mirroring the Guam Power Authority's hours for the CUC crew while they are in Guam and that is from 6pm to 6am. The CUC crew sent to Guam is helping GPA restore power to the island after it was hot by Typhoon Mawar in May.

Terlaje said they're proposing a $1.50 an hour for night differential work, which means work performed between the hours of 6pm and 6am for the off-island assistance.

For those on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, though, she said they feel that 8pm to 6am will be night differential hours and it would be at the same rate of $1.50 an hour.

Terlaje said the estimated cost for the night differential is an additional $6,400 bi-weekly or an annual $167,000.

She said this will affect the 24-hour shifts mostly power plant employees and the call center troubleshooter that go out in the middle of the night.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Janice A. Tenorio presides over a regular board meeting Friday. The board approved a night differential premium pay for employees here and those doing off-island utility assistance work in Guam.

HOUSE

From page 1

ture Operations Fund shall be maintained separate and apart from other funds of the CNMI government. Independent records and accounts shall be maintained for the Legislature Operations Fund by the Legislative Bureau.

Each annual appropriations act shall appropriate to the Legislature not less than 9% of the funds identified by the governor as available for appropriation, or the amount that was appropriated to the Legislature in the previous annual appropriation—whichever is greater.

The expenditure authority over the funds in the Legislature Account shall be the Legislative Bureau director.

Before the voting, Rep. Joseph A. Flores (Ind-Saipan), who is the principal author of the legislation, offered floor amendments to the bill.

House legal counsel Joseph Taijeron said Flores just wanted to clarify that, based on the existing language, that this language will not exceed the constitutional limits set forth in Article 2 Section 16.

"So it may be 9% this year, it may be 9.1 or 9.2 or 10% next year, or maybe 8% or 7%. But whatever amount it is, is not going to exceed the constitutional amounts sets set forth in Article 2 Section 6. That's all this language does," Taijeron said.

Flores stated in the bill that natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic have provided the governor with reason to use "emergency powers" to drastically reduce funds that were appropriated not just to the Executive Branch but also to the Legislature and the Judiciary.

Flores said the governor also exercised sole power over several hundred million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act funds that were provided to the Commonwealth as a whole, not just the Executive Branch.

He said this legislation will be consistent with the clear terms of the appropriation process that states, "no Commonwealth official may make an obligation or contract for the expenditure of unappropriated Commonwealth funds, unless provided by law or approved in advance by joint resolution of the Legislature."

Flores said each branch should be able to make decisions regarding its operations and personnel.

He said procurement and payroll will also be managed internally and not by the Executive Branch.

Flores said decisions regarding public purpose and travel will be made by the respective expenditure authority.

OAG

From page 1

decision declining to rule or address the merits of Torres' request that Kingman's contract with the OAG be declared invalid.

According to the OAG motion, though, one of Torres' errors that warrant dismissal was naming it a party in his petition.

"Torres' petition should be dismissed because petitioner makes no claims the OAG did anything in violation of the regulations and requests no relief from the OAG. Petitioner's action is for judicial review of the agency action of the secretary of Finance, yet it names the OAG as one of the parties. Petitioner alleges no facts constituting action on behalf of the OAG in his petition. The only allegations as to the OAG are that the OAG hired a special prosecutor pursuant to a sole-source contract to prosecute Mr. Torres in his pending criminal case," Glass said.

Another error, Glass said, is that Torres and his defense team did not exhaust all available administrative remedies.

"Parties are required to exhaust administrative remedies prior to seeking court intervention. As no bad faith or fraud has been committed by the contract awardee, and as the attorney general has certified that the contract is in the best interest of the Commonwealth to attain a special prosecutor with expertise in handling white-collar and public corruption prosecutions, there is still left an administrative procedure of ratification of the contract. Because there is still an administrative procedure left, this court lacks jurisdiction. It must therefore dismiss the petition," Glass stated.

He also argues that the matter itself is not ready for judicial review as the secretary of Finance has yet to issue its final decision.

"The agency has yet to render its last word on the matter. The contract is currently awaiting to see if the SOF will ratify the contract. The SOF's decision is material in this matter because ratification would validate the contract, and thus any claims of deficiencies would be moot. As this decision has a direct impact on the petition and as the decision has not been rendered, the petition is not ripe for judicial review," he said.

Lastly, Glass argues that Torres lacks standing to challenge Kingman's contract.

"Because the AG is empowered by the Constitution to prosecute and appoint special prosecutors, petitioner lacks standing as he has suffered no legal harm and is not aggrieved in being prosecuted by the special prosecutor. The special prosecutor was duly appointed by the attorney general and has authority to practice in the Commonwealth courts pursuant to his pro hac vice admission," Glass said.

LOOMING

From page 1

Also, this is projected to have a ripple effect over the cost of fuel and fuel delivery to the CNMI, according to Epiphanio E. Cabrera Jr., who is the state clearinghouse administrator for the Office of Grants Management, on Friday.

Speaking during the public comments portion of a CUC board meeting, Cabrera advised CUC to prepare as this project for residential solar power and other renewable projects will have a fiscal impact on CUC in the next year or two.

Cabrera, who is also a member of the CNMI Energy Task Force, disclosed that they just got word that the CNMI government is about to receive $25 million in EPA grant for residential rooftop solar power.

He said if their numbers come out correctly, this translates to about 25 megawatts of electric power, which is a big chunk of CUC's base load. Cabrera said this will have a ripple effect on the cost of fuel and the fuel delivery to Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

He said they are expected to get at a minimum of $25 million and up to $100 million for residential solar and that they are submitting the formula grant by Aug. 19, 2023.

Cabrera said it's a formula grant so it's guaranteed and all of the renewable resources tied to this project is scheduled to be deployed in July 2024.

As per the conditions of the grant, it is expected to generate 25 megawatts, all for residential, with at least 10 kilowatts distributed per household. He said at least 2,500 households will benefit from the project.

Cabrera said they have projects that are scheduled for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. (phases 1, 2, 3, and 4) that are ready to go next year. There are a total of eight phases of the projects intended for CHCC and he said that, once all eight phases are in place, this would decrease CHCC's utilities by 72%.

He said there are also talks about having the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on 5 megawatts of renewable energy.

Cabrera said the Public School System already has 3.24 megawatts that are still offline, but it will go online by August, according to the company that is doing the project.

Right now, there are private home with solar power installations of about 3.5 megawatts.

"So I'm giving advance notice to please prepare because this will affect your compensation plan, all your planning, and all future renewable projects for CUC," Cabrera told board members.

In addition, the OGM administrator said, they are pushing for 1 megawatt of installation of solar per year, using all their Energizing Insular Communities funding.

"That's [going to] take time, but it'll get there," said Cabrera as he disclosed they are also pushing for a financing program for renewables for the indigent, the elderly, and the veteran population.

He said CUC might get hit hard in the next year or two.

The OMG administrator added that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority was approved a $1.4-million solar grant, the library got a $1-million solar grant, and the Department of Corrections just got approved for another $1-million solar grant.

He said there are also talks about bringing green hydrogen to the CNMI. Cabrera said the current cost for green hydrogen is $1 million for 500 kilowatts.

In essence, he said, supplying Rota, for example, will cost less than $4 million to supply a full 24-hour power for the entire island.

Cabrera said this will affect all the supply chain issues with fuel.

On the other side, he said they have the EIC grants and all the congressional earmarking that are guaranteed coming in.

ALINGANO

From page 1

cessful voyage to Saipan in years, the *Maisu* took dozens of community members to Managaha last Saturday for free, in order to pay respects to Carolinian Chief Aghurub, who is buried on the island.

According to Sewralur, the Maisu has been making the voyage to Saipan almost annually since 2009. However, due to the pandemic, the voyage was suspended. Fortunately, they were able to make it out this year.

Before hitting the waves, *Saipan Tribune* managed to speak with Sewralur and master navigator Mario Benito on their journey from Palau to Saipan aboard the *Maisu*.

"This is a voyage we've been doing for some time. We have a program on Palau that we merged with the Palau Community College. The program started in August and May to July is when we go sailing as training for these students. We've been doing this since 2009. This is the first voyage we've made to Saipan since COVID hit," he said.

When asked how the three-month long voyage went, Sewralur said the first few days were rough but it got better and he is happy that they made it to Saipan safely.

"It was a hard voyage in the beginning, for the first 19 days. But we made it here in almost three months. A total of 13 made the voyage to Saipan," he said.

After spending about a week on Saipan, Sewralur said he and his crew are set to make their way home this week.

"We're leaving back to Palau this week. We will stop over on Yap and from Yap, we will head back to Palau. We went through most of the Micronesian Islands on our way here so on our way back, we'll skip most of the islands," Sewralur said.

As for the weekend trip to Managaha, Sewralur said he was happy to see so many people come out to join them pay respects to their chief.

"We wanted to sail to Managaha to pay respects to our Chief Aghurub. We're so happy and proud to have this many people join us to pay respect to our chief. That is our main goal in having this trip—to make the community understand how this program works and how important voyaging is for our culture," he said.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Benito, he said it is the first year 500 Sails joined the voyage. Benito is a senior sakman leader for 500 Sails, a non-profit group based on Saipan that wants to revive the CNMI's maritime tradition.

"500 Sails joined the voyage from Palau to Saipan. This is the first year we've joined," he said.

As for the Managaha trip, Benito said about two or three trips had to be made because a lot of people showed up to help pay respects to the ancient chief.

"We made this trip to pay respect to our chief and we want the community to come join us on the trek. Looks like a lot of people showed up today to join us on the journey. We had to do like two to three trips," he said.

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Concepcion graduates from UW with engineering degree

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A son of the CNMI, Joseph N. Concepcion, has made his home and people proud after graduating from one of the oldest universities in the West Coast, University of Washington.

Concepcion, who recently earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, graduated from the University of Washington as part of the Class of 2023.

"I am excited to finally be able to say, 'I have graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelors of Science.' It is incredibly humbling to become a part of the 148th annual commencement at the UW, the oldest university in the West Coast. My father, Army Maj. Aldebert Attao Concepcion Jr., is an alumnus of the very same university and, as a legacy student, I am proud to have earned my degree at his same alma mater, joining a group of professionals that spans all fields of work," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joseph N. Concepcion poses for a souvenir picture after graduating from the University of Washington.

Concepcion said he hopes to gain valuable work experience in his field so he can come back and serve his community.

"My future plans involve gaining valuable work experience as an electrical engineer so that I can contribute to our community's future as a seasoned worker in my field. I congratulate the rest of my cohort at the University of Washington, as well as all of those in the Class of 2023 and, most importantly, want to extend my love and gratitude to my family and friends all around the globe. An extra special thank you to my parents, Aldebert Jr. and Carminadela, and my brothers, Aldebert III and Brian. You have all given me so much support and encouragement these past four years, and helped me get to where I am today well before that. Go Huskies!," he said.

Concepcion, 22, was born on Saipan but has relocated a few times in his life as a result of his father's military deployments to include places like Spain, Japan, South Korea, and more.

However, even though he grew up on international soil, Concepcion continues to represent his islands in everything he does and is proud to call himself a son of the CNMI.

OFWs urged to sign up for OWWA

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

To help Filipinos workers and their families abroad, the Philippine government's Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is offering a chance for interested individuals to become OWWA members that will make them eligible to receive certain benefits in the Philippines.

Toward this end, OWWA will be on Saipan and will be accepting and servicing applicants from July 17 to July 22, 2023, at the Sun Palace hotel in Susupe, from 8:30am to 5pm.

Applicants are advised and required to bring their work visa or CW-1 visa, employment contract, or any proof of employment, along with a photocopy of their personal information at the front of their passport, an accomplished OFW Information sheet, signed by the OFW (a completed OWWA Form) and if processed by another person, an authorization letter with a valid ID of the representative. The fee for membership is $25.

The OFW Information Sheet will be provided at the OWWA outreach.

OWWA is a Philippine government agency in charge of developing and implementing services and programs for overseas Filipino workers and their families. Some of the benefits include scholarships for dependents of overseas Filipino workers, low-interest business loans, etc.

3 from Saipan land on Hollins U's Dean's List

ROANOKE, VA—Three students from the CNMI have made it to the Hollins University's Dean's List during the spring 2023 semester.

The three students are De Faustina Camacho, Dionne Torres, and Nina Lauren Valdisimo, all from Saipan.

To attain Dean's List honors, students must earn at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale. Congratulations to these distinguished scholars on earning this academic achievement.

Hollins is an independent liberal arts university offering undergraduate liberal arts education for women and selected graduate programs for women and men. ***(PR)***

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WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2022 CUC Water Quality Report is now available on-line! This year, we have a separate report for each island: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These reports contain important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please open the following web sites to view what contaminants were detected in your water during 2022 and to learn more about your drinking water.

For Saipan, go to https://www.cucgov.org/spn2022
For Tinian, go to https://www.cucgov.org/tin2022
For Rota, go to https://www.cucgov.org/rota2022

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

RA AYOORA REPOODIL AMMWELIL SCHAAL

Repoodil yóómw 2022 CUC Ammwelil Schaal aa yoor online! Ráágh yeel, ai ayoora repoodngáli falúw kka: Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta. E lo llól repood kkal arongorong ikka e impotanti reel milikka e toowow me ammwelil schaal iye ów ghal úlúmi.

Emmwel ubwe suughi website ikka e amwirimwiritiw ubwe amwuri meta kka e nngaw iye e lo llól yóómw schaal llól ráághil 2022 me ubwe metaff reel schaal iye ughal úlúmi.

Ngáli Seipél, mweteló reel https://www.cucgov.org/spn2022
Ngáli Tchiliyól, mweteló reel https://www.cucgov.org/tin2022
Ngáli Luuta, mweteló reel https://www.cucgov.org/rota2022

Ngáre u mwuschel rebwe seleti repood yeel, ngáre u tipáli ubwe kkapas ngáli escháy reel repood yeel, ngáre u mwuschel pappid yeel ngáre rebwe email-li ló ngálugh, faingi ló CUC me (670) 664-4282.

RIPOT KUÅLIDÅT HÅNOM ESTA MANAGUAHA

Iyon-mu 2022 na Ripot nu i Kuålidåt Hånom i CUC managuahayi på´gu giya on-line! På´gu na såkkan, in na´guahayi siparåo na ripot para kada´ isla: Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta. Esti na ripot siha masaguaniniyi impottånti na infotmasion put i tutuhonña yan kuålidåt put i Hånom ni un gigimin.

Put fabot baba i tinattiyi na web sites para un atan håfa siha mankutchinu ni masodda´ gi hålum i hånom-mu gi durântin 2022 na såkkan para un ke´tungu´ mås put i hånom ni un gigimin.

Para Saipan, hånao para https://www.cucgov.org/spn2022
Para Tinian, hånao para https://www.cucgov.org/tin2022
Para Luta, hånao para https://www.cucgov.org/rota2022

Kumu un nisisita i ripot para u matranslåda, ya malagu´ hâo kumuentusi håyi put i ripot pat malagu´ hâo kopian påppit u ma´entrega pat ma-email guatu para hâgu, put fabot hâgan i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-025

AGAG BOOSTER PUMP AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEM UPGRADE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of upgrading the existing Agag Booster Pump Station (AG); rehabilitation of existing Agag concrete sump tank, yard piping, aboveground flowmeter and valve station with concrete pad, and all other appurtenances at the Agag site; renovation of the existing chlorine and electrical building; installation of a new booster pump (triplex system); construction of a new perimeter security fencing and facility lighting at the Agag site; and site improvements and grading. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 185 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **July 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-025, Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) August 2, 2023,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 17, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Dennis Formalejo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician via address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Yumul resolution seeks to approve $172.5M for FY 2024

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) has introduced a concurrent resolution that seeks to approve the $172.5 million in total revenues and resources for fiscal year 2024 as identified by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios in the proposed fiscal year 2024 budget.

House Concurrent Resolution 23-2 seeks to approve the revenues for fiscal year 2024 beginning Oct. 1, 2023, and ending Sept. 30, 2024, as Palacios submitted to the Legislature last May 1.

The House was expected to adopt the resolution at a session last Friday.

Yumul, who chairs the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, urged Palacios to report to the Legislature any amendment or changes to the proposed budget, including actual revenues and expenditures to date for fiscal year 2023.

The governor was also asked to report immediately any changes proposed since his May 1, 2023 letter submittal of the fiscal year 2024 budget, or other significant factors affecting the budget.

Palacios said the anticipated gross budgetary resources available for fiscal year 2024 is $172.56 million. After adjustments-deducting debt service obligations, earmarked funds and other obligations such as the annual payments due to the Settlement Fund, a total of $115.40 million is available for appropriation.

'Munis still shows LB's original budget despite revised budget'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the passage of Public Law 23-04 that revised the CNMI government's budget in fiscal year 2023, figures on the Munis accounting system still reflect the original budget numbers for fiscal year 2023 as outlined in Public Law 22-22.

Legislative Bureau director Perry John P. Tenorio made this observation in his request last week to Office of Management and Budget special assistant Virginia C. Villagomez to make some reprogramming of the bureau's funds.

Tenorio said that with the signing of Public Law 23-04, or the revised budget, last April 23, the budget for the Legislative Bureau has already been amended.

Under the repealed Public Law 22-22, the bureau's budget was set at $2,455,135 ($2,070,353 for personnel; $330,013, all others; $54,769, utilities)

Under the newly passed Public Law 23-04, the bureau's budget is now $2,505,134 ($1,945,353, personnel; $380,012, all others; $179,769, utilities).

Tenorio said he is exercising his authority to move funding from personnel to operations. He provided their estimated projection for the balance of the fiscal year.

USDOL cites Paramount Builders again for endangering employees in A. Samoa

PAGO PAGO, America Samoa—A Pago Pago building construction company's long history of violations of federal workplace safety and health laws continued after inspections at two American Samoa work sites where the employer exposed workers to numerous dangerous hazards.

Since 2018, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Paramount Builders Ltd. with 22 serious violations, including willful and repeat failures, in 26 inspections. The company's history includes fall protection failures that led to an employee's 24-foot fatal fall in May 2013 as they painted rafters.

During a January 2023, OSHA found Paramount Builders once again endangering its employees. The agency cited the company for 21 violations—including nine serious, six willful and six repeat serious violations—and proposed $1,088,681 in penalties.

Specifically, OSHA determined Paramount Builders failed to:

- Use guardrail systems, safety net systems or personal fall arrest systems, as required.
- Equip stairways with one stair rail system along each unprotected side or edge.
- Ensure workers used appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to hazards from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, or potentially hazardous light radiation.
- Install equipment safely as instructed by the manufacturer.

"Paramount Builders has historically shown its willingness to ignore federal laws that protect its employees from being exposed to serious injuries and potentially fatal hazards, and its intentional disregard must end," said OSHA area office director Roger Forstner in Honolulu.

Based in Pago Pago, Paramount Builders Inc. specializes in large construction projects, including the Parliament Building in Pago Pago. ***(PR)***

JOB OPENING

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER (Chinese Speaking)
EUCON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Job Duties:
Provides instruction at the Secondary School level in the following classes: Fundamental Math, Algebra I and Geometry; creates lesson plans; evaluates student performance and provides feedback; communicates students' progress to parents; develops and updates curriculum for the classroom; maintains accurate records of students' progress; keeps order in the classroom; posts grades and sends grade reports to parents; performs other teaching-related duties.

Other requirements:
Baccalaureate degree in liberal arts, stem-science, or engineering; ability to communicate and interact with students and parents; ability to encourage and motivate students; basic computer and Microsoft software skills; Chinese language skills preferred, as school instructs both native English and Chinese speaking students

Work Location: Eucon International School, Kulales Place, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai

Mail Address: P.O. Box 500087, Saipan, MP 98950

E-Mail address: hr@eucon.edu

GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WEBEX MEETING JULY 11, 2023

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
Honolulu Regional Office- Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers
on
TUESDAY JULY 11, 2023

From
4PM-6PM (GUAM & CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the below links into your browser:

https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m4e6f6ca7817b5ba8114a54f74730307f

You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, Access Code: 27639434240##), **or Webex Mobile App. Meeting Password: GsmDzNp2?38**

Benefits Workshop Topics:
Compensation, Service Connection, Pension, COD, MST, Women Veterans, Education & Training, Veteran Readiness & Employment, PACT Act, Home Loan Guaranty, DIC, Survivors' Pension, & Burial and Plot Internment Allowance

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540
www.deq.gov.mp

Arnold Palacios, Governor
Dave M. Apatang, Lt. Governor
Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator
Zabrina S. Cruz, Director, DEQ
Richard V. Salas, Director, DCRM

PRESS RELEASE

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act, activities that may result in a discharge to waters of the United States and require a federal permit or license also receive Water Quality Certification. In issuing a Water Quality Certification for a federal permit or license, BECQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards, will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the existing or designated uses of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health. Further, the Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the CNMI states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Marianas Islands, and that this shall be the public policy of the Commonwealth.

1. Upon receiving a request for certification, BECQ issues a public notification which describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will commence on **FRIDAY, JULY 07, 2023**, and ends at **4:30 pm** on **SUNDAY, AUGUST 06, 2023.**

   The Administrator of BECQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if the hearing is requested by the public. BECQ will make a determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

BECQ is solicitating comments on the request for a CNMI Water Quality Certification.

1. **APPLICANT INFORMATION:**
   CNMI United Investment Corp. Inc.
   Steve Qian
   President
   P.O Box 10003 PMB 1372 Saipan, MP 96950

2. **APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI Water Quality Standards, Chapter 65-130.

3. **LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** Garapan, Saipan, CNMI. Lot No. 013 D 38. The project site is a privately owned property located along the Saipan Lagoon immediately south of Garapan Fishing Base.

4. **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The CNMI United Investment Corporation is proposing to construct a retaining wall structure along the north and south sides property line and sheet pile along the shoreline boundary (west property line) approximately 59 feet in total length. The steel sheet piles would be installed through a method called vibro-driving by USA Fanter; a local construction company. The sheet piles will typically top-out at 4 feet above grade and encased in concrete. Infront of the sheet pile (seaward side), a narrow sloping riprap rock wall will also be constructed and will have an approximate 2- to 3-foot wide base and excavated about 2 feet in depth. The rock sizes will range from 8" to 12", sourced from locally mined limestone rock and will be grouted in place. The area behind the new sheet piles would be filled using any excavated material from creating the base of the riprap structure and/or clean local quarry material. The proposed shoreline stabilization structure will be funded through private sources and will be processed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) through Nationwide Permit (NWP) No. 13 – Bank Stabilization. Furthermore, this project requires Water Quality Certification from BECQ in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

5. **IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed minor excavation activities will create sediment plumes.

6. **PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES:** Silt fences will be installed to minimize and control erosional processes from land-based construction activities with the retaining wall. Turbidity curtains will be the first line of defense in controlling the lateral spread of the sediment plume generated from excavation activities. These will remain in place and checked daily for damage until construction has been completed. Placement of turbidity curtains will be as close to the active work site as possible to contain sediment plumes and to prevent affecting seagrasses.

   Written comments should be submitted to DEQ within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of this notice. Please email comments to cnmi.waterquality@gmail.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

US hostages may get rude awakening upon return

The Biden administration is working behind the scenes to secure the release of Americans held in Iran, NBC News reported last month. The White House also insists it is "working every day" to free *Wall Street Journal* reporter Evan Gershkovich, who was arrested in Russia on trumped-up charges in March.

Let's hope that American citizens who have become prisoners of authoritarian regimes acting outside the norms of international diplomacy will eventually be released to the United States, where they will again enjoy the sweet taste of freedom. And it's well past time that Congress took steps to ensure that those who are wrongly imprisoned abroad aren't subjected to a host of additional wrongs when they return to American soil.

There are few things that Republicans and Democrats can agree on these days, but the Stop Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act should be one of them. The bipartisan legislation, introduced in May by Sen. Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat, and Sen. Mike Rounds, a South Dakota Republican, would postpone tax deadlines for Americans who have been unlawfully held in a foreign nation.

It would also reimburse them for late fees assessed while they were detained.

Consider the case of Washington Post correspondent Jason Rezaian, who was held by Iran for 544 days before his release in 2016. When he got back to the states, "his welcome home came with bills of $20,000 for unpaid taxes, late payment penalties and interest," the *Wall Street Journal* reported this week.

Rezaian told the Journal that "there was no pause button for wrongful detention. I was a hostage. Why do I have to pay taxes on that?"

Even those who plan ahead—leaving a family member with power of attorney, for instance—face major hurdles if their detention in a foreign jail drags into months or even years.

"You can start to imagine how challenging, how problematic that is for any family member stepping into the role," Liz Cathcart of the nonprofit Hostage US, which works with families, told the Journal.

Some hostages are also the victims of fraud, as scammers tap their accounts hoping that they won't be discovered in the short term.

Currently, the State Department will provide an official letter to families, stating that their loved one has been improperly detained. That can be a help, but it didn't stop the IRS from going after Rezaian. The proposed legislation goes a step further to help ensure that Americans who have been victimized by rogue governments abroad don't get abused again once they come home.

The proposal should be sent to President Joe Biden tomorrow.

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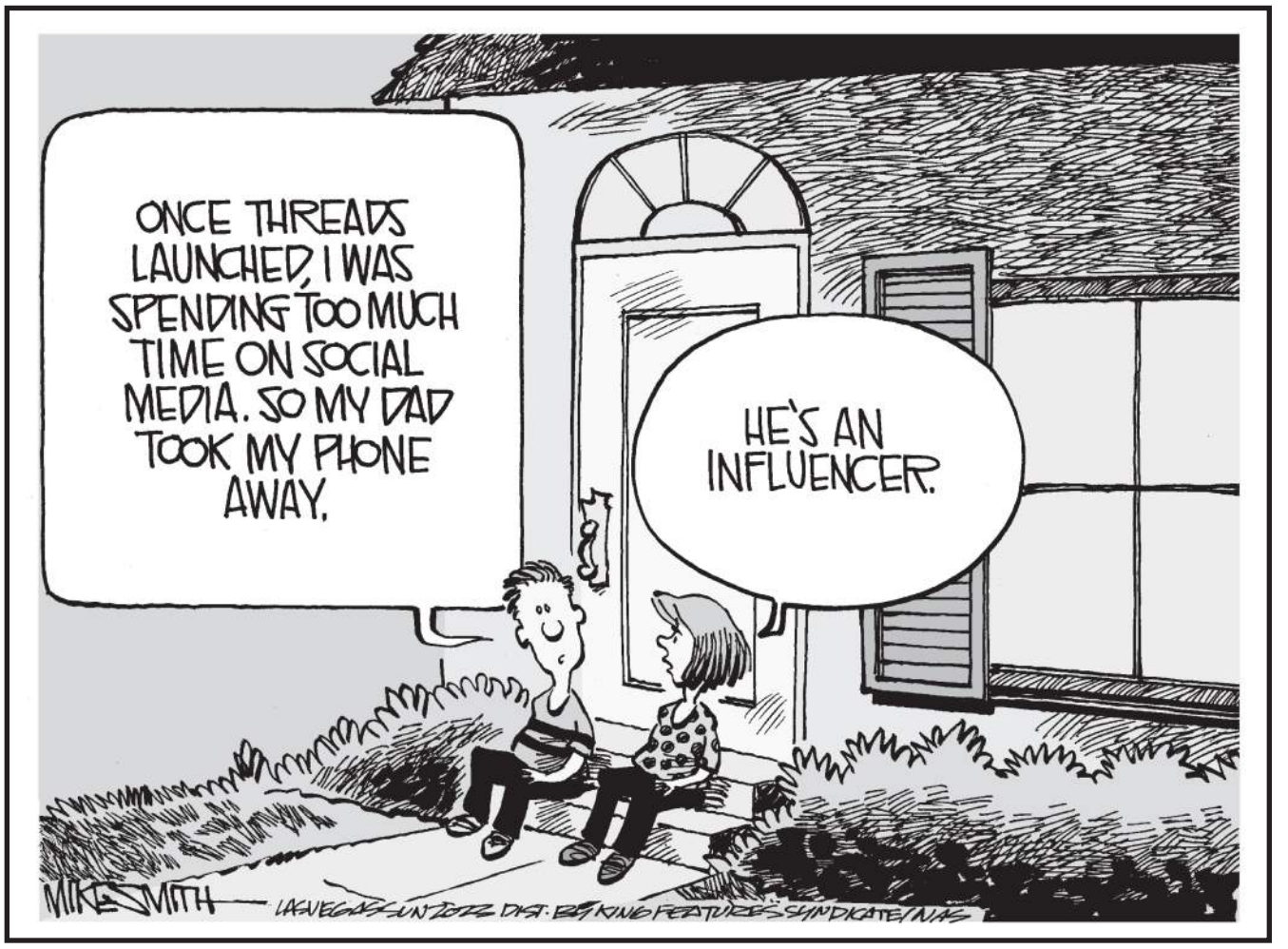

ONCE THREADS LAUNCHED, I WAS SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME ON SOCIAL MEDIA. SO MY DAD TOOK MY PHONE AWAY.
HE'S AN INFLUENCER.
MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2022 DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS

Don't forget about the student loan plan already in place

By CLAUDIA SAHM
Bloomberg Opinion

Last week the Supreme Court struck down the Biden administration's student loan forgiveness plan, which would have done away with as much as $20,000 per borrower. And that was the second blow to borrowers in recent weeks. The first was when House Republicans used the deal to raise the nation's debt ceiling to force borrowers to start paying back their loans in October, which is sooner than planned.

Some macroeconomists who have spoken out against forgiveness, fearing it would either spark inflation or represent fiscal malfeasance or both, should remember that the plan is not large enough to move the needle on macroeconomic conditions. In reality, the plan was primarily about the positive effects on individuals, not gross domestic product or inflation. The bipartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that the loan forgiveness program would have cost $400 billion over the next 10 years, but that's only around 1% of the $25 trillion economy annually.

Advocates have fiercely debated how to best structure student loan forgiveness, and President Joe Biden said he's not giving up. "We'll use every tool at our disposal to get you the student debt relief you need and reach your dreams," he said Friday at the White House. A key sticking point was whether Biden's plan was progressive or regressive, especially whether it would have improved racial wealth equity. With the Supreme Court ruling, such debates are largely moot now. Congress is the only path to forgiveness, and that's unlikely to happen anytime soon.

The Biden administration and advocates who had been pushing for broad-based forgiveness should focus on the narrower program already on the books: the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. A fresh look might improve the PSLF program for public servants and help meet at least some of the administration's goals. In the PSLF program, recipients must make loan payments and work full-time in a public service job, in the military, or at a qualifying non-profit. The top occupational groups eligible are teachers, doctors and social workers, and protective services (such as police and firefighters). After 10 years, a borrower's remaining loan balance is forgiven.

Sure, the program is much smaller than the plan envisioned by the Biden administration, and, in principle, it sounds simple. But the PSLF needs to work on low take-up, and the implementation of that is burdensome, especially the verification of work and workplace. In 2017, when the first cohort completed the 10-year program, only 96 borrowers received loan forgiveness. The following year was not much better, with a little under 400. Finally, by the start of 2022, some 84,000 had received PSLF loan forgiveness. But that's out of 3.5 million borrowers who are likely eligible for the program. Low completion rates are due, in part, to the implementation of benefits. Recertification—the annual process to verify that a borrower is still eligible—is a particular sticking point. For example, a borrower must get a signed form from their employer yearly to show eligibility.

Given that the PSLF was not fulfilling its mandate, the Department of Education created a temporary waiver from October 2021 to October 2022. The key innovation was to allow borrowers to receive benefits after the fact. In the normal system, an eligible borrower starts the program in year one of repayment and then proceeds for 10 years through the end of the program. With its simpler administration and requirement, the waiver had noticeably increased the number of borrowers getting loan forgiveness. But it expired in October. An excellent first step toward improving the program would be to make permanent changes like retroactive benefits as was the case with the temporary waiver.

In contrast, the take-up on Biden's plan looked like it would have been high, with the administration estimating that 40 million borrowers would have been eligible. Some 26 million—more than two-thirds of the eligible – had signed up for the program in a matter of weeks. Yes, the programs are different, but the gap is so wide that there must be lessons on outreach for the PSLF from Biden's plan.

And there's a lesson for everyone. Sarah Turner, a professor at the University of Virginia, and her co-authors found in a study of the PSLF plan that enrollment is a big factor in which groups—whether by income, race/ethnicity, or education—receive disproportionate more benefits. This type of analysis is called "distributional analysis." It's not enough to look at the legislation; it's essential to see what happens in the real world. The goal should be 100% enrollment, as getting close as possible will do policy as intended.

Friday's court decision was a hard day for many. But it's also a chance to exchange ideas with other forgiveness plans. And before that, focus on getting the best possible loan repayment.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Supreme Court is waging war on young people

By JEAN GUERRERO
Los Angeles Times

Jean Guerrero is an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times.

The Supreme Court's right-wing majority seems to be declaring war on young people.

In recent days alone, the court has halted affirmative action in colleges, derailed student loan debt forgiveness and approved discrimination against LGBTQ+ couples in certain cases. The conservative justices seem hellbent on making the country a more hostile place for Gen Z and millennials, the most diverse voters in terms of race, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation.

Many young people are wondering if they'll ever be able to afford a house or a safe and comfortable life for themselves, let alone their children. They're less inclined to have kids at all because of the high costs of living and other concerns. They see in the Supreme Court an older, mostly white and male cohort hoarding power in defiance of America's shifting demographics.

But young people shouldn't despair. While it might be tempting to unplug from politics and renounce the democratic process, voting in elections still offers a path for change. If Democrats secure a big enough majority in Congress, they could carry out reforms of the Supreme Court—such as term limits and court expansion—to rein in the outsize power of conservatives and defeat their campaign to send the country back decades.

So far, Gen Z-ers in particular appear to have what it takes to persevere and reverse the march backward. They're more politically engaged than millennials were at their age, and they've repeatedly turned Republicans' attacks into fury and fuel. "Young people are tired, but we are also committed to making sure we're the last generation that has to face this," Santiago Mayer, a 21-year-old Mexican immigrant who founded the youth voter engagement nonprofit Voters of Tomorrow, told me.

Young people have reason to feel overwhelmed by the onslaught of bad news, but they're also finding ways to avoid becoming paralyzed by apathy. Some find that activism and action is a psychological antidote to fear.

"Young people don't have a choice but to walk in the footsteps of our grandparents and our great grandparents," says Olivia Julianna, a 20-year-old queer Latina from Texas who has raised millions of dollars for social justice on social media. "We are going to have to march in the same way they did. We're going to have to vote and fight for our rights in the same way they did."

She's urging people to vote in the 2024 elections, regardless of how disillusioned they feel. If more had voted in 2016, the Supreme Court wouldn't have its stranglehold on civil rights. "I don't think the system is broken in terms of people don't have a voice," she said. "It's broken in terms of there's so many people out there who choose not to use it. Your vote is your voice."

But it takes work to convince people to exercise their civic duties if they've lost faith in the system, or if they never had faith in it.

First, people who are politically engaged have to venture outside of their ideological echo chambers. Rather than preaching to their choir of Twitter followers and close friends, they should be having in-person conversations with apolitical or semi-political people. For those conversations to work, they should be rooted in understanding and empathy rather than shaming.

I recently had an encounter that gave me hope that this type of persuasion may not be as difficult as we imagine it to be. I was having dinner with a fellow millennial who expressed progressive values and who told me he doesn't vote because he gets overwhelmed following politics. I told him I empathize—if my job as a journalist didn't require me to stay up on current events, I said, I'd want to unplug more often as well.

I told him my reason for voting and staying engaged was to act on behalf of people who can't vote, whose rights are under attack. By the end of the conversation, he said I'd changed his mind and that he was going to vote in 2024. I don't know that he will, of course, but he seemed sincere in reconsidering his stance.

I've found that Gen Z-ers—who are caricatured as dogmatic but are well-versed in navigating diverse communities and negotiating differences—are unusually skilled at these conversations.

Mariah Allen, a 19-year-old Black student at Loyola Marymount University whom I've interviewed about Gen Z's political leanings, has already been practicing respect-based discussions with her peers. "I'm not one for forcing opinions," she said, adding that she prefers to ask people questions about their views if she doesn't understand or agree.

She told me the Supreme Court's decisions are unsettling, but they won't cause her to sit on the sidelines. She's just as motivated, if not more so, to vote and talk with others about the importance of voting. "Complacency is not an option," she said, reflecting on the Black activists who paved the way for her to be able to exercise her right to vote in the first place.

Allen, who hopes to have kids someday, says she wants to be a part of a movement to build a country where children can grow up safely. The Supreme Court may not care about preserving the rights that matter to the youngest generation, but she does. It's up to Gen Z and millennials to remake the government for the youth who are coming next.

How the Titanic wreck became a money-making scheme

By STEPHEN MIHM
Bloomberg Opinion

The ill-fated passengers who died trying to visit the wreck of the Titanic paid an extraordinary price for the privilege: $250,000 each. This is hardly surprising, given how many people view the story of the doomed ship with intense, if morbid, fascination. A profitable industry now caters to this obsession, with commercial museums the latest offering for those in need of a Titanic fix.

While it's tempting to blame James Cameron for this state of affairs, that's not quite right. Our obsession with the Titanic tragedy, along with monetizing it, has far deeper roots. Even as the corpses of those who died in the tragedy awaited burial in April 1912, countless entrepreneurs seized the opportunity to make a fortune off the misfortune of others.

First in line were companies that made and distributed newsreels to be screened in movie theaters. Within days of the sinking, short films claiming to show the great ship before its fateful voyage began playing in packed movie houses and theaters on both sides of the Atlantic. The only problem? Almost no footage of the ship existed.

No matter! Some of the newsreel companies got their hands on footage of the Titanic's twin, the Olympic, in New York City. They scratched out the names of other ships in the footage as well as any other clues that might betray the ship's true identity. They also repurposed footage of the Titanic's Captain Edward Smith taken on a different ship, passing it off as if he was piloting the Titanic.

This dubious mix of fact and fiction, typically accompanied by melodramatic music and audience singalongs, proved quite lucrative for these companies. Warner's Features, which marketed one of these misleading films, claimed to have sold 100 copies in 48 hours.

Not everyone gave glowing reviews, though. Some crowds protested when they discovered that –- contrary to false advertising claims –- the reels didn't actually contain footage of the sinking after all.

The actual film industry took things even further. Less than a month after the ship sank, Saved from the Titanic hit theaters. It featured Dorothy Gibson, an American silent-film star who just happened to have been on the Titanic's fateful voyage. The film, built around a series of flashbacks, showed Gibson reenacting her experience, all while wearing the very dress she had worn on that fateful evening.

Gibson's film proved a huge hit, overshadowing another Titanic-related commercial success released to the German market: Nacht und Eis, or Night and Ice. Both films excelled where the newsreels could not, building models that depicted the actual sinking. The Germans went so far as to show Captain Smith drowning. Audiences loved it.

But the big screen was only one of many places that attracted people eager to turn the catastrophe into cash. By the early 20th century, publishers had perfected the art of churning out "instant books" that purported to memorialize and document tragedies. When the Titanic sank, they didn't hesitate.

The first instant book came out within a month of the sinking, followed by several others. These typically claimed to have some kind of official imprimatur—"the only authoritative book," one claimed. Printed on cheap paper and padded with passages taken from newspapers, these books reached a market through armies of salesmen, who went door to door collecting advance orders for the works, which typically sold for a dollar each, or about $30 in today's money.The music industry also jumped on the bandwagon. At the time, most of the money lay in publishing sheet music, not records. And while some of the compositions were written with the idea of raising money for the families of the victims, plenty were in it to turn a profit. The offerings varied in quality. Some had maudlin lyrics: "My Sweetheart Went Down With the Ship" was typical of the genre.

While World War I put a temporary end to the fondness for all things Titanic, this was hardly the end of the line. As one historian of this pop culture phenomenon has noted, "interest in the disaster was dormant, not extinct," reviving in 1929 with a smash theatrical hit: The Berg. This became the basis of another film, The Atlantic, which was breathlessly billed as "a thunderbolt of drama impossible to describe."

For the most part, critics of commercialization hailed from British and American shipping lines. These magnates feared that all the films, plays and radio dramas about the Titanic might deter people from traveling by boat. For example, when the BBC proposed making a highly realistic radio play about the Titanic in the 1930s, complete with sound effects, members of the press sympathetic to the liners warned that listeners would experience "a night of horror which, in gruesome realism, is likely to surpass anything given before." But they rarely won these censorship campaigns.

The postwar era experienced renewed commercial interest in the tragedy. Walter Lord's 1955 bestselling book, A Night to Remember, became a critically acclaimed film. Others proved less successful. In 1980, Raise the Titanic, based on Clive Cussler's book of the same name, proved a spectacular failure. It took $40 million to make and only brought in $7 million. After it tanked at the box office, the producer, Lew Grade, quipped: "It would have been cheaper to lower the Atlantic Ocean."

Many predicted that James Cameron's Titanic would suffer the same fate. It did not, eventually grossing more than any other movie made up until that time. But if Cameron made the most money off the Titanic than anyone in history, he was by no means the first.

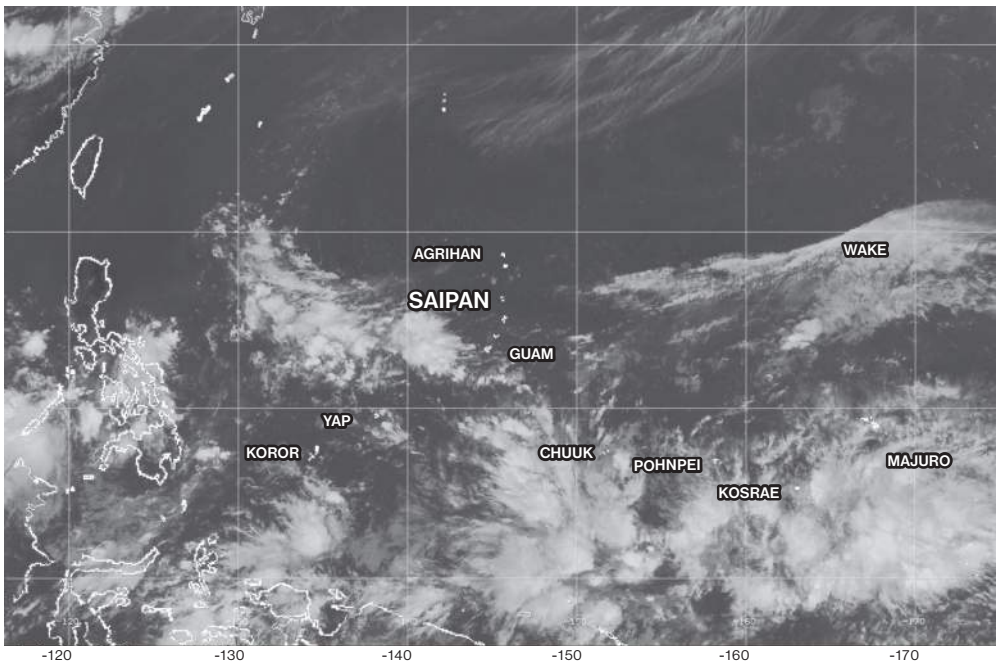
And, judging from the fate of the Titan, he won't be the last. Whatever other reasons for the doomed ship's appeal across the ages, one thing seems certain: It always was—and will remain so for the foreseeable future—a source of profit as much as anything else.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Showers likely. The rain could be heavy at times. Mostly cloudy	A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
85° 79°	86° 79°	87° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:49 AM, SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar indicate partly cloudy skies and isolated showers for Tinian and Saipan with mostly cloudy skies and scattered showers for Guam and Rota. Ipan buoy and latest altimetry passes indicate seas of 5 to 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	89° / 78°
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:19 PM	11:47 PM
Tuesday	12:26 AM	1:13 PM	-
Wednesday	1:06 AM	2:07 PM	-
Thursday	1:48 AM	3:02 PM	-
Friday	2:33 AM	3:58 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Scattered Thunderstorms	59° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	103° / 77°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	89° / 83°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°
London	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 63°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78° / 59°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95° / 81°
Melbourne	Cloudy	61° / 53°
Miami	Thunderstorms	89° / 80°
New York	Scattered Thunderstorms	81° / 72°
Osaka	Scattered Thunderstorms	89° / 79°
Paris	Sunny	86° / 65°
Busan	Scattered Thunderstorms	79° / 73°
Rome	Sunny	98° / 73°
Salem	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 71°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	64° / 55°
Seoul	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 74°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	93° / 79°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	84° / 69°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:20 AM	High Tide	2.17
8:03 AM	Low Tide	0.82
1:29 PM	High Tide	1.66
7:29 PM	Low Tide	0.77

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3467	3:00AM	7:10AM	Daily up to July 20
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:45AM	8:45AM	1, 5 July 17 to Aug 18
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174 via Guam	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3468	8:20PM	1:50AM+1	Daily up to July 19
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	6, 4 July 23 to Aug 20
7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Walt Nauta pleads not guilty in classified documents case

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and ERIC TUCKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI (AP)—Donald Trump's valet, Walt Nauta, pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges that he helped the former president hide classified documents from federal authorities, appearing with a new Florida-based lawyer to represent him as the case moves forward.

Nauta was charged alongside Trump in June in a 38-count indictment alleging the mishandling of classified documents. His arraignment was to have happened twice before, but he had struggled to retain a lawyer licensed in Florida and one appearance was postponed because of his travel troubles.

Ahead of his arraignment, Nauta hired Sasha Dadan, a criminal defense attorney and former public defender whose main law office is in Fort Pierce, where the judge who would be handling the trial is based. She appeared in court with Nauta, alongside his Washington lawyer, Stanley Woodward, who entered the not guilty plea on his behalf.

Nauta

Nauta answered, "Yes, Your Honor," when he was asked whether he had reviewed the indictment during the brief court appearance. He and his lawyers exited the courthouse after the arraignment and entered a Black Mercedes-Benz sedan without answering questions from reporters.

Trump pleaded not guilty during his June 13 arraignment to charges including willful retention of national defense information. But Nauta's arraignment was postponed that day because of the lawyer situation and then was pushed back again last week when a flight from New Jersey he was to have taken was canceled.

The indictment filed by special counsel Jack Smith and his team of prosecutors accuses Nauta of conspiring with Trump to conceal records that the former president had taken with him from the White House after his term ended in January 2021.

Prosecutors allege that Nauta, at the former president's direction, moved boxes of documents bearing classification markings so they would not be found by a Trump lawyer who was tasked with searching the home for classified records to be returned to the government.

That, prosecutors said, resulted in a false claim to the Justice Department that a "diligent search" for classified documents had been done and that all documents responsive to a subpoena had been returned.

The relocation of the boxes was captured on surveillance camera footage that the Justice Department had subpoenaed, and agents and prosecutors cited those actions as a basis for probable cause that a crime had been committed in their August warrant application to search Mar-a-Lago, according to newly unsealed information from the application.

Prosecutors say Nauta also misled the FBI during an interview with agents last year when he said he was unaware of boxes of documents having been brought to Trump's residence at Mar-a-Lago.

Nauta is a Navy veteran who was from Guam and fetched Trump's Diet Cokes as his valet at the White House before joining him as a personal aide at Mar-a-Lago. He is regularly by Trump's side, including traveling in Trump's motorcade to the Miami courthouse for their appearance earlier this month and accompanying him afterward to a stop at the city's famed Cuban restaurant Versailles, where he helped usher supporters eager to take selfies with the former president.

US senators seek more repayments for those exposed to nuclear fallout

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—U.S. senators from New Mexico and Idaho are making another push to expand the federal government's compensation program for people exposed to radiation following uranium mining and nuclear testing carried out during the Cold War.

Downwinders who live near the New Mexico site where the world's first atomic bomb was tested in 1945 as part of the top-secret Manhattan Project in World War II also would be among those added to the list.

The legislation would amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to include eligible residents in areas affected by fallout in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah and the territory of Guam.

Democrat Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico and Republican Mike Crapo of Idaho announced Thursday that they were reintroducing the bill in the Senate after previous attempts to expand the program stalled.

The measure also has been introduced in the U.S. House, with supporters saying the clock is ticking as more people are diagnosed with cancers that they say are connected to exposure.

Lawmakers are hoping that momentum gained last year following bipartisan approval of legislation that prevented the compensation program from expiring can be tapped to expand the program and ensure that it doesn't expire as scheduled next summer.

The challenge will be getting more Republicans to support the legislation, said Tina Cordova, a cancer survivor and co-founder of the New Mexico-based advocacy group Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium. She said many people who would benefit from expanded coverage are in states represented by GOP lawmakers.

Cordova said radiation exposure continues to affect the latest generation of families who were exposed to fallout from nuclear weapons testing. She pointed to her niece, a 23-year-old college student who recently was diagnosed with thyroid cancer, and the 2-year-old granddaughter of a Tularosa family who had an eye removed due to cancer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES 1, 4 AND 5 REPLACEMENT, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-100,** SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Passenger Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 Replacement for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-100" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2023,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 1, 4, and 5 with new apron-drive bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, including all associated work in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract provides that the Contractor shall invoice for labor and materials for passenger boarding bridge replacement at Gate 1 separately from the invoice for passenger boarding bridges replacement at Gates 4 and 5 (which may be invoiced together).

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS ($250.00)** for each set of bid documents in electronic format (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD. Bidders should also verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023,** at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager at email address wprater@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6500.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com, at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid submission extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased the bid documents and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished on the DVD. Each bidder should also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX (526)** calendar days for all three bridges. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND ($1,000.00) U.S. Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: June 16, 2023

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: July 06, 2023 CLOSING DATE: July 21, 2023 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary
2023-013	1- Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Program Administrative Specialist	$25,000.00 per annum-UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Northern Marianas Technical Institute
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NMTECH Generator and Generator House Project

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTech), located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified vendors to deliver, supply and install a generator set and construct a generator house for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute-Lower Base Campus.

This solicitation is in accordance with NMTech Procurement Regulations §3000-225. To also include provisions of NMTech Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section §3000-525 prohibiting kickbacks and gratuities, Section §3000-530 prohibition against contingent fees shall apply.

The Scope of Work is available beginning July 10, 2023, at the NMTech Procurement Office, located at Lower Base, Saipan. Requests may be sent via email to procurement@nmtechcnmi.org.

All questions or inquiries regarding this RFP is due no later than 9:00 a.m., ***July 14, 2023, by email only.*** Responses to questions or inquiries will be provided on July 19, 2023.

Northern Marianas Technical Institute
Procurement Office
Email: procurement@nmtechcnmi.org

Sealed proposals for this project shall be submitted with one (1) original and four (4) copies to the NMTech Procurement Officer located at the NMTI campus, Lowerbase, Saipan, MP-96950 no later than **4:00pm, local time, Chamorro Standard Time, 08/01/2023 and must be marked "Proposal - Northern Marianas Technical -Generator & Generator House Project NMTI 2023-RFP 002"**

Failure to follow the instructions regarding the submission of RFP Responses may result in the NMTech's choice to disqualify such bids.

/s/Jodina C. Attao
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Amy Lynn Babauta
Procurement Officer

NiziU collaborates with MVA on $1.2M YouTube exposure

©JYP ENTERTAINMENT/SONY MUSIC LABELS INC.

NiziU films at Micro Beach on Saipan in April 2023.

©JYP ENTERTAINMENT/SONY MUSIC LABELS INC.

NiziU films at Saipan World Resort in April 2023.

J-Pop girl group NiziU started streaming last July 7 an eight-part series on YouTube about their recent vacation in the Marianas, reaching over 2 million subscribers and generating an estimated $1.2 million in ad exposure value for the destination.

NiziU's debut album "U" was released in November 2021 and reached No. 1 on both Billboard Japan and the Oricon Albums Chart, the Japanese music industry standard albums popularity chart.

The group was in the Marianas in April 2023 on the video-shooting tour collaborated with the Marianas Visitors Authority and Saipan World Resort to increase awareness of the destination, its attractions, and available activities.

"It's amazing to have NiziU choose the Marianas as their first overseas vacation destination, and we're very excited to collaborate with them on this project, which is going to put the Marianas on the map for their millions of fans and followers," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Being only three and a half hours away from Japan makes it so easy for any of their fans to also have the 'NiziU' vacation experience here in our beautiful island paradise, and we expect some of them will."

Episodes of "NiziU's Summer Vacation in Saipan" will premiere for eight consecutive Fridays at 9pm ST on NiziU Official YouTube channel. During their first overseas vacation, the members took on the challenge of a "Saipan Stamp Tour," visiting popular tourist spots on the beautiful, nature-rich island while completing missions and collecting stamps.

The group's highly anticipated second album "COCONUT" will be released on July 19. The title song has already received nearly 3 million views in its first day on YouTube. A music video filmed on Saipan to also be released shortly.

While on Saipan the group filmed at Mariana Lighthouse, I Love Saipan, Smiling Cove Marina, Saipan World Resort, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Surf Club Saipan, and aboard a glass-bottomed boat. Scenic sights visited included Managaha, Bird Island Lookout, Ladder Beach, and Obyan Beach. ***(MVA)***

©JYP ENTERTAINMENT/SONY MUSIC LABELS INC.

NiziU films at Bird Island Lookout on Saipan in April 2023.

Northern Marianas Technical Institute
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

INVITATION TO BID

Laptops, Chromebooks, & Desktops for NMTECH

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTech), located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified vendors to deliver and supply forty (40) Laptops, thirty (30) Chromebooks and three (3) High Performance desktop computers.

This solicitation is in accordance with NMTech Procurement Regulations §3000-225. To also include provisions of NMTech Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section §3000-525 prohibiting kickbacks and gratuities, Section §3000-530 prohibition against contingent fees shall apply.

The Scope of Work is available beginning July 10, 2023, at the NMTech Procurement Office, located at Lower Base, Saipan. Requests may be sent via email to procurement@nmtechcnmi.org.

All questions or inquiries regarding this ITB is due no later than 9:00 a.m., ***July 14, 2023, by email only.*** Responses to questions or inquiries will be provided on July 19, 2023.

Northern Marianas Technical Institute
Procurement Office
Email: procurement@nmtechcnmi.org

Sealed proposals for this project shall be submitted with one (1) original and four (4) copies to the NMTech Procurement Officer located at the NMTI campus, Lower Base, Saipan, MP-96950 no later than **4:00pm, local time, Chamorro Standard Time, 08/01/2023 and must be marked "NMTI 2023-ITB 001"**

Failure to follow the instructions regarding the submission of RFP Responses may result in the NMTech's choice to disqualify such bids.

/s/Jodina C. Attao
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Amy Lynn Babauta
Procurement Officer

Operations Manager (Saipan, MP)

Plan, direct, manages, and coordinates the operations of the company such as but are not limited to formulating policies, overseeing daily operations, planning the use of materials and human resources. Improve operational systems, processes and best practices that guarantee the company well-being. Recruit, interview, and train personnel. Prepare and process employees USCIS work authorization documents. Assess staff performance and provide coaching and guidance to ensure maximum efficiency. Ensure the smooth and adequate flow of information within the company to facilitate other business operations. Make work schedule for laundromat employees. Monitor, encode, handle, and prepare monthly expense report on assigned accounts. Review and revise leasing documents such as rental agreement, related documents & forms. Prepare monthly rental billing, collect rents, and summarize monthly collections and tenants accounts. Review & summarize assigned accounts monthly reports. Ensure operations adhere to company policies & regulations and complies with all Governmental regulations and requirements. Ensure all licenses, permits, and regulating agencies compliance are timely filed, renewed and complied. Attend seminars, meetings, public hearings and other related forums to keep abreast and updated with relevant changes that will impact business operations. Deal, handle and correspond with private and Gov't agencies. Review company agreements and contracts; make analysis and recommendations for revisions & improvements. Provide assistance and reports to executives & managers with operations and administrative duties. Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Mathematics, or Economics with 5-year experience in the position.

Send Resume, transcript, & supporting credentials to
P&A CORPORATION ATTN: DOYI KIM
P.O. Box 506003, Saipan MP96950 saipanwinners5@gmail.com

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT, CYBER RESILIENCE PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-012-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (Authority) is inviting qualified cybersecurity consulting firms (Proposers) to provide a Cybersecurity Infrastructure Assessment Report (CIAR) and to develop a Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan (CIRP) and a task-based CIRP Implementation Plan.

The RFP Package is available beginning June 26, 2023, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of an administrative fee of $50.00 payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". Payment shall be by cash, certified cashier's check, postal money order, or credit card. All applicants shall pay the reasonable administrative fee of $50.00 to receive a copy of the proposal.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

RFP Issued Date	June 26, 2023
Applicant Briefing at CPA Meeting Room	July 07, 2023 (10:30 A.M.)
Deadline to Submit Questions	July 14, 2023
Deadline to Submit Proposals	July 28, 2023 (4:00 PM)
Evaluation's Committee's Selection	August 4, 2023
Execution of Professional Services Agreement	August 11, 2023
Project Completion	September 15, 2023

Qualified proposers shall submit their proposals sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Cybersecurity Assessment, Cyber Resilience Program, and Implementation Plan, Project No. CPA-RFP-012-23". Proposals must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. Local Time, July 28, 2023,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date

MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE
P.O Box 5729 CHRB | Saipan, MP 96950 | Capitol Hill, Building #1326 | No. (670) 664-4750

Diana B. Hocog Rota Representative
Donna M. Flores Member
Monique B. Sablan Member
Dr. Elizabeth Emma C. Itibus Member
Vacant Tinian Representative

June 26, 2023

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Scholarship Board of Directors is hereby giving notice that it will hold its 1st regular board meeting on Thursday, July 13th at 10:00am on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CNMI Scholarship Office Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Calling to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
V. Public Comments
VI. New Business
a. Election of Officers
b. Committee Appointments
c. Scholarship Applicant Appeals
d. FY 2024 Budget
e. APAFS Conference
f. Discussion of Defaulted Accounts
g. Behavioral Health Scholarship
h. MOA – Nursing Scholarship & NMC Students
VII. Administrator's Updates
VIII. Announcements & Next Meeting
IX. Adjournment

/s/ Mildred Sablan-Camacho, CSO Administrator

COSMETOLOGIST: K'S INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION. SAIPAN, CNMI

Keep work stations clean and sanitize tools, such as scissors and combs. Bleach, dye, or tint hair, using applicator or brush. Cut, trim and shape hair or hairpieces, based on customers' instructions, hair type and facial features, using clippers, scissors, trimmers and razors. Schedule client appointments. Update and maintain customer information records, such as beauty services provided. Demonstrate and sell hair care products and cosmetics. Analyze patrons' hair and other physical features to determine and recommend beauty treatment or suggest hair styles. Shampoo, rinse, condition, and dry hair and scalp or hairpieces with water, liquid soap, or other solutions. Order, display, and maintain supplies. Comb, brush, and spray hair or wigs to set style. Develop new styles and techniques. Apply water, setting, straightening or waving solutions to hair and use curlers, rollers, hot combs and curling irons to press and curl hair. Shape eyebrows and remove facial hair, using depilatory cream, tweezers, electrolysis or wax. Administer therapeutic medication and advise patron to seek medical treatment for chronic or contagious scalp conditions. Recommend and explain the use of cosmetics, lotions, and creams to soften and lubricate skin and enhance and restore natural appearance. Clean, shape, and polish fingernails and toenails, using files and nail polish. Give facials to patrons, using special compounds, such as lotions and creams. Train or supervise other hairstylists, hairdressers and assistants. Operate cash registersto receive payments from patrons.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma and 12 months experience required.
Salary: $ 7.88 - $8.00 per hour.

Workplace: SAN JOSE VILLAGE Saipan, CNMI

To apply: Please send your resume to
K'S INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION., PO BOX
501981, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to kssalon96950@gmail.com
Job Number – KS-2023-01

Business

Users and lawyers compare Twitter and Threads

By MATT O'BRIEN and WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a cease-and-desist letter earlier this week, Twitter threatened legal action against Instagram parent company Meta over the new text-based app Threads, which it called a "copycat."

Threads has drawn tens of millions of users since launching as the latest rival to Elon Musk's social media platform.

Threads creators pushed back on the accusations, and legal experts note that much is still unknown. For now, "it's sort of a big question mark," Jacob Noti-Victor, an associate professor at Yeshiva University's Cardozo Law School who specializes in intellectual property, told The Associated Press.

The people starting to explore Threads, however, are already making their own observations.

"People are calling it a Twitter clone but I think there are some key product differences," said Alexandra Popken, Twitter's former head of trust and safety operations.

One difference, she thinks, will likely be the people who use it. At Threads, "you're essentially taking your audience from Instagram and putting this into a new text-based app, whereas Twitter is a kind of a niche audience for politicians, celebrities and news junkies," she said.

Yet even though Threads makers have said they aren't particularly interested in making it a politics forum, it's likely to attract journalists and politicians, among others, looking for a Twitter alternative.

Instagram's CEO, Adam Mosseri, said Threads isn't aiming to replace Twitter.

"The goal is to create a public square for communities on Instagram that never really embraced Twitter and for communities on Twitter (and other platforms) that are interested in a less angry place for conversations, but not all of Twitter," he said.

Politics and hard news will inevitably show up on Threads, he acknowledged, "but we're not going to do anything to encourage those verticals."

In a Wednesday letter addressed to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Alex Spiro, an attorney representing Twitter, accused Meta of unlawfully using Twitter's trade secrets and other intellectual property by hiring former Twitter employees to create a "copycat" app.

In a reply to a tweet about the possibility of legal action against Meta, Musk wrote: "Competition is fine, cheating is not."

Meta spokesperson Andy Stone responded in a Threads post Thursday that "no one on the Threads engineering team is a former Twitter employee."

AP

This photo, taken in New York on July 5, 2023, show the logo for Meta's new app Threads, right, and that of Twitter.

From Spiro's letter, which was first obtained by news outlet Semafor on Thursday, Noti-Victor said it's hard to tell what the trade secrets referred to might be.

Spiro says ex-Twitter employees "improperly retained" company documents and electronic devices — pointing to ongoing confidentiality obligations. There was no explicit reference, however, to a breach of any binding agreement in the letter, and most noncompete clauses, for example, are prohibited in California.

In addition, despite Threads' similarities to Twitter, "just the idea of creating a social media platform involving text (is) certainly not something that would be a trade secret," Noti-Victor added.

He is skeptical of intellectual property violations for similar reasons, noting that companies "can't patent something that's obvious" or copyright a general idea for a social media platform. Copyright can protect source code and the text of a website, but Noti-Victor said he doesn't see that reproduced in Threads.

Experts add that companies in Silicon Valley are constantly making products or services inspired by competitors' versions.

"The industry has a storied past of borrowing ideas from each other," said Popken, adding that Threads and other platforms such as Mastodon and Bluesky are "trying to capitalize on what is demand for a suitable, safer alternative to Twitter."

Meta has a track record of starting standalone apps that mirror competitors, although many later shut down.

Beyond trade secret and intellectual property allegations, Spiro also wrote that Meta is prohibited from "engaging in any crawling or scraping of Twitter's followers or following data." He said the letter marked a "formal notice" for Meta to preserve documents relevant for a potential dispute between the companies.

Any letter of this kind should be taken seriously, said Carl Tobias, law professor at the University of Richmond's School of Law — but he, too, added that much is still unknown. More specific allegations and documents could come forward if litigation is pursued.

Tobias speculated that Twitter's move could be partly about publicity, as well as a strategic response both legally and business-wise. Musk's legal team has made similar moves before, such as a May letter to Microsoft objecting to alleged misuse of Twitter data to train artificial intelligence systems.

Among those elevating the clone-or-not question this week was Twitter co-founder and former CEO Jack Dorsey, who has championed Bluesky, and joked in a tweet: "We wanted flying cars, instead we got 7 Twitter clones."

For Popken, who now works at content moderation startup WebPurify, what most stands out about Threads so far is how much fun she's having using it.

"I see brands like Slim Jim trying to be funny. I see influencers who I follow on Instagram and people who I care about in my life," she said. "There's like this period of time where the bad actors haven't found it yet. It's like this non-toxic, happy corner of the internet."

But "make no mistake," she added, those content moderation problems that have plagued other platforms "will certainly strike Threads over time."

GRMC holds ribbon-cutting ceremony for new CT scan

GRMC

The Guam Regional Medical City in Dededo, Guam.

DEDEDO, Guam—Guam Regional Medical City hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its newly installed, high-performance SOMATOM® computerized tomography scanner at the first floor of the radiology department last Friday, July 7, at 1:45pm.

This innovative technology introduced new capabilities such as advanced cardiac imagery, the latest stroke protocols, dynamic 3D imaging, and fast pass trauma exams to GRMC's diagnostic imaging portfolio.

In addition to the hospital's current CT scanner, the high-performing SOMATOM® offers multiple clinical applications, including high-resolution scans, advanced cardiac exams, CT angiography, and whole-body imaging. It also features a patient-centric design with reduced noise levels and streamlined workflows that help improve the patient experience.

Radiology manager Lloyd "Butch" Frosch said, "The installation of the new CT scanner is part of GRMC's commitment to improve healthcare in Guam and the Micronesia region, helping people receive the best medical treatment possible." ***(PR)***

Biden takes aim at 'junk' insurance to reduce health care costs

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Joe Biden on Friday rolled out a new set of initiatives to reduce health care costs: a crackdown on what he called "junk" insurance plans that play consumers as "suckers," new guidance to prevent surprise medical bills and an effort to reduce medical debt tied to credit cards.

Biden is building on previous initiatives to limit health care costs, with the Department of Health and Human Services releasing new estimates showing 18.7 million older adults and other Medicare beneficiaries will save an estimated $400 per year in prescription drug costs in 2025 because of the president placing a cap on out-of-pocket spending as part of last year's Inflation Reduction Act.

Gearing up for his 2024 reelection campaign as inflation remains a dominant concern for voters, the Democratic president has emphasized his policies to help families manage their expenses, as well as a spate of government incentives to encourage private sector development of electric vehicles, clean energy and advanced computer chips.

Republican lawmakers have criticized Biden's policies by saying they have spurred higher prices that hurt the well-being of families.

Biden said his administration was taking aim at what he called "junk" insurance plans, such as short-term policies that can deny basic coverage as people transition between employers and still need temporary health care coverage.

The new proposed rules aims to close loopholes that allow insurers to offer products that can discriminate based on pre-existing conditions and market to consumers coverage that provides little or no coverage.

"In America, it sounds corny, but fairness is something we kind of expect," Biden said. "And I don't know anybody who likes to be viewed as having been played for a sucker."

Biden invited Cory Dowd to tell his story at the White House event to spotlight the initiative. Dowd in 2019 purchased a high-deductible health care plan when he returned stateside after serving in the Peace Corps in Ghana but before he started graduate school and was able to get on a student health plan. He thought the plan would protect him in the case of a medical emergency.

But just weeks before he started school, he had to have emergency surgery to remove his appendix. Months later, the hospital called him to tell him his insurer would only cover a small portion of his bill and that he would have to pay more than $37,000 out of pocket.

"For me, there was both a financial and emotional cost," said Dowd, who added that the insurer relented after news coverage about his situation. "I've always considered myself a very responsible person. But this really took a toll on my self-esteem and my identity."

Health & Wellness

Let's talk low libido

It may feel uncomfortable to talk about low libido with your partner and your health care team. Unfortunately, it's a common problem that affects adults everywhere, yet many people have never been asked about their sexual health by their health care teams.

Although it may be difficult to discuss, sexual health is important and factors that are causing low libido should be addressed. Many primary care, psychology and OB-GYN professionals are trained to care for and treat hypoactive sexual desire disorder, or HSDD. This is the persistent or recurrent deficiency or absence of sexual fantasies and desire for sexual activity. It's often referred to as having a low libido and can cause significant distress and relationship problems.

There's no magic pill for low libido. The desire for sex is based on a complex interaction of many things that affect intimacy, including physical and emotional well-being, experiences, beliefs, lifestyle and relationship status. A thorough evaluation of your symptoms and possible causes, along with an individualized treatment plan, may put you in the mood more often.

Here's what you need to know about low libido.

Low libido in men

Some of the most common causes of low libido in men include:

■ Physical issues: Increased weight, diabetes, high blood pressure, endocrine disorders and high cholesterol can affect the ability to maintain an erection or decrease sex drive. These conditions also can lead to low energy and low self-image which can cause a significant loss of libido. In many cases, this can be corrected through diet, exercise and medical management.

■ Pornography: This is a big cause for many men. Pornography permeates many committed relationships and can change how men view sexuality. For some, it causes pseudo-low libido, which is when a person is still interested in sex but not in a healthy way. This often leads to unrealistic expectations of body image, confusion about what an intimate encounter is and, in some cases, negative sexual behavior. The internet is a large contributor. Often, people who are committed to changing their behaviors are referred to sexual addiction counseling to manage this effectively.

■ Loss of intimacy: I'm always amazed at how dedicated and committed people are to their jobs, sports teams or extracurricular activities but treat relationships like a given, self-maintaining entity. This simply isn't the right approach. Relationships, intimacy and sexual health require work and effort. In many cases, a lack of emotional connection can lead to low libido in both partners.

■ Medications: Many medications used for anxiety and depression can lower libido in men and, in some cases, delay orgasm. While some men have no side effects, others may encounter significant issues. It's important to note that you should not stop taking any medication without first talking with your health care team.

■ Alcohol and drug use: Increased alcohol use can reduce testosterone levels and increase the risk of erectile dysfunction and low libido. Illicit drugs often increase sex drive in the short term but have significant long-term negative effects on sexual function. Depending on the substance, drug use can cause a decrease in testosterone levels and erectile dysfunction or change how the brain responds to activities that were previously viewed as pleasurable, like sex.

Remember, the answer to treating a low libido is more than turning to medications. Acknowledging there's an issue and seeking professional help can be the start of getting back something great.

Low libido in women

The issue of low libido in women is even more complex, with causes ranging from past negative and abusive experiences with sex to fatigue and stress.

The most common causes of low libido in women include:

■ Life stressors and fatigue: After growing their families, many women are not only weeks behind on quality sleep but also haven't exercised in months and eat only when they can find a spare second. It's no wonder they say that they feel exhausted and sexually dead. They often confide that they don't feel like they could have a sexual or intimate encounter even after a long time.

■ Medications: Depression and anxiety lead to lowered libido. Yet, medications to treat these conditions could be making it worse or even causing it. This isn't a reason to stop taking an important medication, but it's definitely a topic to discuss with a sexual health specialist.

■ Weight gain: Weight gain can lead to low energy, negative self-image and loss of intimacy with your significant other.

■ Hormone changes: Estrogen levels drop during menopause and can greatly affect libido. It can cause vaginal dryness and lead to painful or uncomfortable sex. While not as common, hormonal contraceptives also can cause lower libido. In some women, they cause vaginal irritation which leads to a decreased willingness to initiate a sexual experience.

■ Sexual pain or dyspareunia: If it hurts, why would you do it? The good news is that pain during sex can often be treated. The first step is to be evaluated by a sexual health specialist who will recommend a treatment plan, which could include a referral to a psychology specialist or pelvic floor physical therapist.

■ Relationship issues: For many women, emotional closeness is essential for sexual intimacy. Problems in the relationship like a lack of connection, unresolved conflicts or trust issues can be a major contributor to a low sex drive.

■ Previous trauma: Previous physical or emotional trauma can affect the way people experience sex and lead to low libido. Sexual desire and arousal often are numbed in people who have been physically or sexually abused. Women who have been abused often avoid sexual contact because the neural networks in their brains associate sex with power, fear or pain. This makes intimacy difficult. Even a previous consensual, yet negative, sexual experience can reduce a woman's desire for sex in the future.

How to get help for low libido

First, talk with a health care professional who specializes in and has been trained in treating sexual health. Your primary care provider will be able to recommend a trusted expert.

During your first appointment, the provider will conduct a comprehensive health history, evaluation and physical exam. Blood tests may be necessary to check hormone levels and check for thyroid problems, liver disorders or other conditions.

Treatment plans focus on the many causes of low libido. Sex education and counseling may be recommended, especially to address relationship issues. Medication and hormone therapy options are available to boost libido.

Tips to combat low libido

Healthy lifestyle changes can make a difference and combat low libido:

■ Start an exercise program. Regular aerobic exercise and strength training can increase your stamina, improve your body image, lift your mood and boost your libido.

■ Plan a trip—but leave the kids at home. Take a dedicated vacation for just yourself or with your significant other. Don't go with other couples. This can be a distraction as you look to reconnect. Setting aside time for intimacy can help put your sex drive back on track.

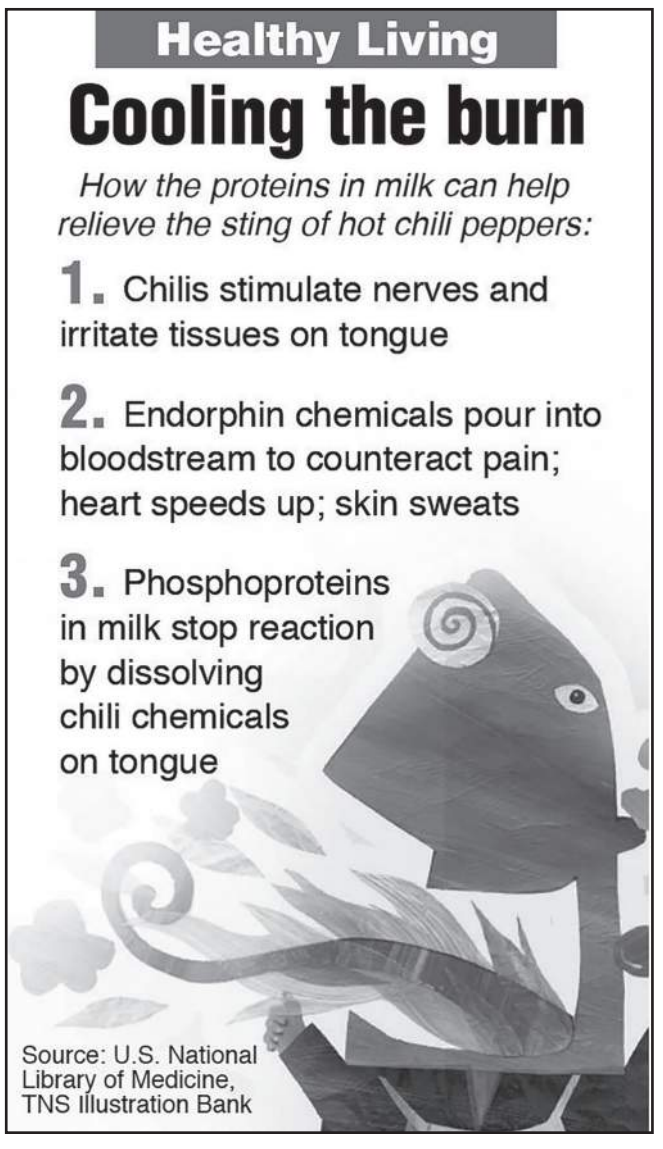
■ Communicate. Yes, something as simple as sitting across from each other at a restaurant as you start to communicate again can do wonders. Make sure you keep topics light and have no expectation of an encounter later. Let the moment simply be about spending time with each other.

■ Reduce stress. Find ways as a couple to better cope with work and home stress. Are there chores that can be stopped or done by someone else or commitments that can be skipped? Seek out ways to reduce stress in daily life.

■ Ditch bad habits. Smoking, illegal drugs and excess alcohol can all dampen your sex drive. Ditching these bad habits may help give your sex drive a boost and improve your overall health.

People don't have to meet a specific medical definition or wait for low libido to worsen before seeking help. If you are bothered by low or decreased sex drive, there are changes and treatments that can move you in the right direction.

Graham King, M.D., is a Family Medicine physician specializing in sexual and women's health in Mankato, Minnesota. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***


Healthy Living
Cooling the burn
How the proteins in milk can help relieve the sting of hot chili peppers:
1. Chilis stimulate nerves and irritate tissues on tongue
2. Endorphin chemicals pour into bloodstream to counteract pain; heart speeds up; skin sweats
3. Phosphoproteins in milk stop reaction by dissolving chili chemicals on tongue
Source: U.S. National Library of Medicine, TNS Illustration Bank

Life & Style

Video shows Britney Spears inadvertently hit herself in the face

LAS VEGAS (AP)—No charges will be filed following a brief investigation of the altercation involving pop star Britney Spears, San Antonio Spurs rookie Victor Wembanyama and a member of the player's security team, Las Vegas police said Friday after determining she inadvertently "hit herself in the face."

Spears said she was struck by a security guard as she tried to approach Wembanyama near a restaurant in a Las Vegas casino complex on Wednesday night. Wembanyama said a person, who he later found out was Spears, grabbed him from behind.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department said Spears had actually struck herself when someone pushed her hand off Wembanyama as she reached up to tap the No. 1 overall pick.

In its investigation, which is now over, police determined that the security guard did not willfully or unlawfully use force or violence against Spears. No arrests were made and no one was cited, the report said.

In the report, police said surveillance footage of the event "showed Britney going to tap the Spurs player on the shoulder. When she touched the player (redacted) pushes her hand off of the player without looking which causes Britney's hand to hit herself in the face."

Spears filed a police report after the incident outside the restaurant, alleging battery. On Friday, she posted a reaction to Instagram with a caption that said "Either way I'm still a huge fan of the NBA player … it's not his fault his security hit me."

Wembanyama was making his NBA Summer League debut for the Spurs in Las Vegas on Friday night. The 7-foot-3 French teen was the No. 1 pick in last month's NBA draft and is entering the league with as much acclaim as anyone since LeBron James in 2003.

The altercation happened Wednesday night; Spears said she recognized Wembanyama at another hotel earlier in the evening and when seeing him again entering a restaurant at the Aria Resort & Casino she "decided to approach him and congratulate him on his success."

Spears said Thursday, "His security then back handed me in the face without looking back, in front of a crowd. Nearly knocking me down and causing my glasses off my face."

Police interviewed security guards for the Spurs and Spears, both of whom said pushing a hand off someone's shoulder is a standard response, according to the report. The security guard for the Spurs said he spoke with Spears afterward, identified himself and apologized. Spears' security team said she also apologized, the police report said.

AP

Britney Spears appears at the 29th annual GLAAD Media Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., on April 12, 2018, left, and San Antonio Spurs NBA basketball first round draft pick Victor Wembanyama speaks during a news conference in San Antonio on June 24, 2023.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Sweden's city of Malmo will host the 2024 Eurovision pop music contest

STOCKHOLM (AP)—The southern Swedish city of Malmo will host the 2024 Eurovision Song Contest in the same venue that housed the colorful and eclectic music competition in 2012, the Swedish organizers said Friday. The 68th edition will be held at the Malmo Arena, and the live televised final has been set for May 11, with semi-finals on May 7 and May 9. Sweden's third largest city—which also hosted the event in 1992 and 2012—was picked in what organizers called called a "strong bid process" examining venues, accommodations for visitors, infrastructure and other factors.

Woman arrested outside Taylor Swift's home on trespassing charge

WESTERLY, R.I. (AP)—A woman who was previously warned to stay away from Taylor Swift's home in Rhode Island was arrested this week outside the beachfront property, police said. The woman was discovered in front of the home and arrested on Monday, said Westerly Police Chief Paul Gingerella. TMZ published photos showing someone in handcuffs outside the home's gates, which had multiple "No Trespassing" signs. Overzealous fans have been a problem for Swift over the years, with several arrests at her homes.

Andrew Tate loses appeal against house arrest

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Andrew Tate, the divisive social media personality and former professional kickboxer who is charged in Romania with rape, human trafficking, and forming a criminal gang to sexually exploit women, lost an appeal on Thursday against a court's earlier decision to keep him under house arrest, his spokesperson said. The Bucharest Court of Appeal ruled against Tate's appeal, which challenged a court's June 23 decision to extend the house arrest measure for 30 more days as the criminal case continues. That decision was made days after Romania's anti-organized crime agency, DIICOT, formally indicted the 36-year-old social media star along with his brother Tristan, and two Romanian women in the same case.

Ricky Martin and Jwan Yosef divorcing after 6 years

Ricky Martin and Jwan Yosef are divorcing after nearly six years of marriage, the couple announced Thursday.

"For some time, we have considered transforming our relationship, and it is after careful consideration that we have decided to end our marriage with love, respect and dignity for our children," the couple wrote in an Instagram post, shared in Spanish on Martin's profile and in English on Yosef's.

Martin's publicity team confirmed the accuracy of the post to The Associated Press. No other details were provided. People magazine first reported the news.

Martin, singer of such Spanish-language and English-language hits like "Livin' la Vida Loca," "She Bangs," "La copa de la vida" and "Vente pa' ca," has won two Grammys and four Latin Grammys and also acted. Yosef is a Swedish artist of Syrian origin.

"Our greatest desire now is to continue having a healthy family dynamic and a relationship centered on our genuine friendship as we continue the joint upbringing of our children," Martin and Yosef wrote in the statement. "We are united in nurturing this new chapter of our lives."

Martin, 51, and Yosef, 38, were married at the end of 2017. By then, the Puerto Rican singer was already the father of twins Matteo and Valentino, who will turn 15 in August and born via surrogate. Yosef and Martin had two other children together: Lucía, now 4, and Renn, now 3.

Last September, Martin sued his nephew over the fallout of sex abuse allegations the nephew recanted. Arguing that the claims cost him millions of dollars in lost income, Martin said he had been "persecuted, besieged, harassed, stalked and extorted" by his "troubled" nephew for economic reasons. The AP confirmed that, days later, the nephew filed a sexual assault complaint. Martin declined to comment at the time. ***(AP)***

Grandfather unclear of role with kids in growing family

DEAR ABBY: For more than five years, my son dated a young woman with a child. During that time, they lived with him. After they broke up, he was able to have visitation and shared parenting rights even though the little girl, "Paisley," was not his own.

I must say it was a benefit for the child. To this day, Paisley is still a major part of his life. For the last five years she has called him Dad because her mother doesn't want her real dad to be part of her daughter's life, and Paisley wanted someone to call Dad.

Fast-forward three years. My son found love again and ended up marrying a fine lady and mother of two. Their father is a very important part of their lives. They also, along with Paisley, all have grandparents.

My question is, since none of these children are my son's, what are these kids to ME? I don't think they are my grandchildren, but my ex-wife says she accepts them as grandchildren, so I should do it and give them the same benefits that I give my three true grandchildren. Do I refer to them as grandchildren, step-grandchildren or just my son's wife's and ex's children?

MIXED-UP GRANDPA IN OHIO

DEAR GRANDPA: Because these children are important to your son, follow your ex-wife's lead and refer to them all as your grandchildren. Treat them with love and make them feel special. The more love there is, the better it will be for everyone concerned—yourself, your son and his blended family.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a connection with someone very close to my heart, but I'm afraid our relationship isn't healthy. I'M the one who pays our rent. I'M the one who pays for all the food. And I'M the one who has to drive ALL THE TIME—and, as you know, gas isn't cheap.

It upsets me because he also never talks to me. I do like his style. What I love most about him is he is always there to support me. He gives the best hugs! He has beautiful eyes. And I just KNOW he loves me! I love him SO much! But he gets so sad when I hang out with my friends without him.

I want to include him in our activities, but all my friends say that's "unrealistic." How dare they! I love him with all my heart, but often he just doesn't want to spend time with me. And I'm worried he's been cheating on me! What should I do?

GIRL IN LOVE IN CANADA

DEAR GIRL: Your letter is full of red flags. Is this hugger with beautiful eyes employed? WHY are you paying for everything? Has he ever actually SAID he loves you? Does he have any social life of his own? You state that he gets "sad" if you want to hang out with your friends, but often doesn't want to spend time with you. Where DOES he spend his time when he's not with you?

If you suspect he may be cheating, listen to your intuition. You feel that way for a reason. Between you and me, you can do better than this. Start by finding a man who can pull his own weight and will talk to you—AND gives good hugs.

P.S. If your "main squeeze" is a canine, please make sure he's chipped and neutered.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

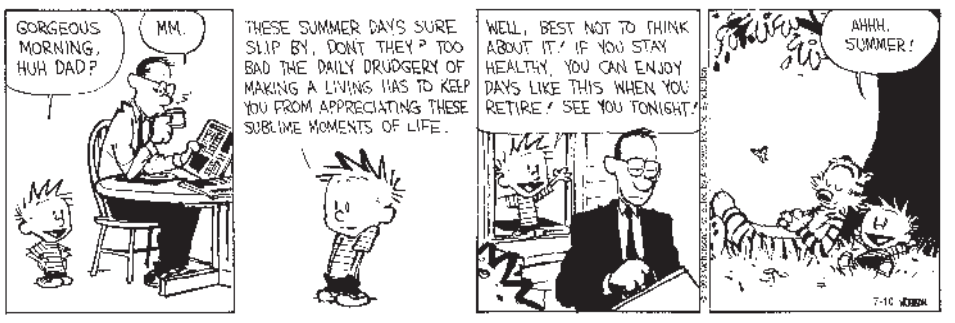
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

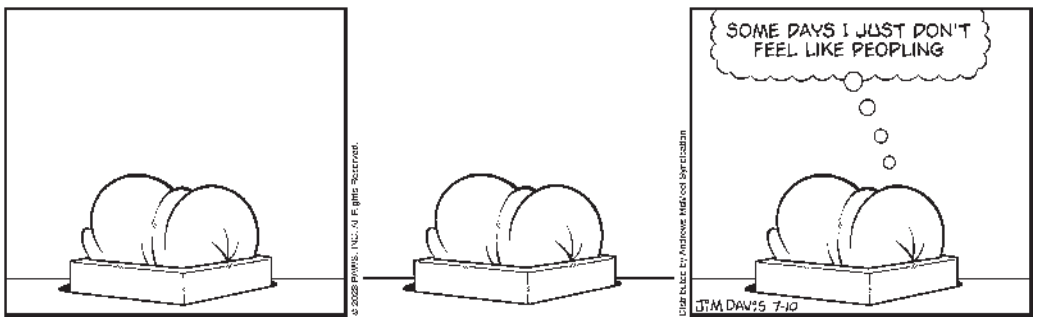
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


GORGEOUS MORNING, HUH DAD?
MM.
THESE SUMMER DAYS SURE SLIP BY, DONT THEY? TOO BAD THE DAILY DRUDGERY OF MAKING A LIVING HAS TO KEEP YOU FROM APPRECIATING THESE SUBLIME MOMENTS OF LIFE.
WELL, BEST NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT. IF YOU STAY HEALTHY, YOU CAN ENJOY DAYS LIKE THIS WHEN YOU RETIRE. SEE YOU TONIGHT.
AHHH. SUMMER!
7-10

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

BOSS, COULD I GET MY RETIREMENT WATCH A COUPLE DECADES EARLY?
YOU MEAN NOW? WHY?!
BECAUSE MY CURRENT WATCH IS BROKEN, AND I NEED ONE TO WAKE ME FROM MY AFTERNOON NAP.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nile vipers
5 Towboat
8 General — chicken
12 Dazzle
13 Singer DiFranco
14 Hotel chain, informally
15 Othello's betrayer
16 Scripture-based
18 Soak up
20 "Peter Pan" author
21 Calendar squares
23 Smart-phone precursor
24 Annual exam
28 Ticket half
31 Fish eggs
32 Port of Nigeria
34 "— had it!"
35 "Zounds!"
37 Strategic
39 Sleep acronym
41 "The — the limit!"
42 Visit
45 Wait-person
49 Pressing
51 Plane-related
52 Sicilian peak
53 — -de-France
54 Waffle brand
55 Uses a shovel
56 CIA operative
57 China neighbor

DOWN

1 India's continent
2 Wild guess
3 Boxers
4 Hairnets
5 Mottled feline
6 Half of bi-
7 Bee Gees' surname
8 Musical intervals
9 Re Plato's teacher
10 California town
11 Only
17 Pool unit
19 Bar
22 Heroic tales
24 Opposite of "post-"
25 Glutton
26 Young horse
27 "— Hall" (Tenny-son poem)
29 A.C.C. school
30 — canto
33 Ocular woe
36 River for-mations
38 Jordan's neighbor
40 French pronoun
42 Sent a dupe to
43 Intro studio class
44 Mark Harmon TV series
46 Star in Lyra
47 Thus
48 Aussie hoppers
50 Swiss peak

A	P	P		F	P	I	C		G	A	S	H
L	I	U		M	E	N	U		E	X	E	S
M	E	R	C	A	T	O	R		N	E	W	T
S	T	R	A	I	T		A	B	U			
			F	L	Y		T	I	S	S	U	E
L	A	K	E	S		Y	O	O		E	T	S
I	C	E	S		T	A	R		B	L	I	P
E	R	R		I	R	K		S	U	L	L	Y
V	E	R	O	N	A		O	U	R			
			I	N	C		A	B	S	U	R	D
B	O	N	N		T	E	S	T	A	T	O	R
B	U	N	K		O	P	E	L		A	V	A
S	T	E	S		R	A	S	E		H	E	M

Last Friday's Answer 07/10

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19		■	20					
■	■	■	21			22	■	23			■	■
24	25	26					27	■	28		29	30
31			■	32				33	■	34		
35			36	■	37				38			
■	■	39		40	■	41				■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49						50		■	51			
52				■	53			■	54			
55				■	56			■	57			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Simpson, 43; Adrian Grenier, 47; Sofia Vergara, 51; Arlo Guthrie, 76.

Happy Birthday: Take everything in stride this year. Look at the pros and cons of every situation before you take a risk with your profession, partnerships or reputation. Work on personal growth, educational pursuits and making a difference. Choose kindness and consideration when dealing with friends, relatives and colleagues. Embrace new concepts, but disagree with anything that will jeopardize your lifestyle or position. Your numbers are 6, 10, 17, 27, 38, 44, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Get along with your peers. The relationships you build will help you get ahead. Don't hesitate to work extra hours or sign up for events that encourage camaraderie. Enthusiasm will pay off, but don't take on more than you can handle. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Be upfront about how you feel and the plans you want to put into motion. Listen to what others plan to contribute, and think twice before you agree to something that is not within your budget. Invest in yourself, not others. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put your energy into where it will pay the highest returns. Focus on home, family and building a solid base to house your dreams, hopes and wishes. Call on those who can offer a different perspective. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Think before making a move. Know in your heart that you are doing what's best for you and those you love first and foremost. Choose your allies based on their actions. Think outside the box when it comes to work and partnerships. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Make a move or change because it's the right thing to do now, not because someone is pressuring you. Trust your instincts, be resourceful and back your feelings with facts. Don't rely on others; do the work yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Target your objective, and don't stop until you reach your destination. Keep a paper trail to verify your expenses, and avoid going over budget. Choose to be prudent, and you'll temper stress. A change of heart will be due to joint finances. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be careful not to share too much information. An emotional situation will expand quickly if money or commitments are at the root of your problem. Don't let an outsider interfere in your personal affairs or underestimate the importance of what's unfolding. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stay locked on issues that require your attention, and you'll discover a unique way to solve matters without upsetting anyone. A change of plans will affect a partnership or your position if you let anger take over. Focus on security. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't let anger or disappointment set in when action is your path to victory. Do your best and be proud of what you accomplish. Focus on the bottom line and let go of whatever is weighing you down. Start playing to win. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* It's time for you to implement change. Put a plan in place, and don't stop until you get satisfactory results. Discovering who you can count on will give you the edge you need to come out on top. A change at home looks inviting. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Bide your time. Examine what's going on around you. Don't feel obligated to make a move because someone is pressuring you. Keep your money in a safe place and say no to poor behavior. Concentrate on relationships, health, financial stability and happiness. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Embrace what you want, apply yourself and expand your skills to meet your task. Take pride in what you do, how you present yourself and the changes you want to initiate. An articulate rendition of your concerns will attract help. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, retentive and sensitive. You are intelligent and influential.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	1	5	2				6
	2	7	9				3	
8						2	5	
9			4				1	5
	8		1	5			7	
1	7				3	8		
4	1		2		5	3	8	9
7	5		3		9			
		3		1			4	

Difficulty: ★ 7/10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

8	6	4	5	1	2	3	7	9
5	3	9	8	7	6	1	2	4
2	7	1	4	9	3	6	5	8
6	4	7	1	8	9	2	3	5
3	8	2	7	6	5	9	4	1
9	1	5	2	3	4	8	6	7
1	5	8	3	2	7	4	9	6
4	2	6	9	5	1	7	8	3
7	9	3	6	4	8	5	1	2

Difficulty: ★★★★ 7/7

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

EATING IN AMSTERDAM **Solution: 9 letters**

S	P	L	N	E	K	E	O	K	N	E	N	N	A	P
G	R	I	L	L	E	D	C	H	E	E	S	E	I	U
I	B	P	O	Ⓕ	F	E	R	T	J	E	S	G	C	O
N	L	A	Z	Z	Ⓘ	P	I	E	S	T	N	A	E	S
E	E	T	K	N	P	Ⓢ	A	T	E	I	A	S	C	T
L	F	A	L	E	E	E	Ⓗ	N	R	B	C	U	R	R
L	A	T	O	H	R	T	C	A	C	E	K	A	E	O
A	T	F	B	C	E	Y	H	I	D	A	N	S	A	O
B	T	R	E	T	O	E	B	E	R	U	K	S	M	P
R	S	I	I	U	J	D	A	E	R	O	O	E	U	W
E	J	E	L	D	H	C	N	U	L	L	U	G	S	A
T	I	T	O	P	P	M	A	T	S	G	A	Q	M	F
T	R	O	O	K	W	O	R	S	T	S	I	N	I	E
I	R	W	E	T	S	G	N	I	L	P	M	U	D	L
B	O	E	R	E	N	K	O	O	L	Y	K	O	M	S

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Bakery, Beer, Belgium, Bitterballen, Boerenkool, Broodje Haring, Cod, Dim Sum, Dumplings, Dutch, Fish, Gouda, Grilled Cheese, Ice Cream, Liquorice, Lunch, Netherlands, Oliebol, Pancakes, Pannen Koeken, Patat Friet, Pies, Pizza, Poffertjes, Rijsttafel, Rookworst, Sausage, Smoky, Snack, Snert, Soup, Stamppot, Stew, Stroopwafels

Last Friday's Answer: Deer

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Manning, Foley, Lange toss 1st combined no-hitter in Tigers history

DETROIT (AP)—Matt Manning, Jason Foley and Alex Lange teamed up for the first combined no-hitter in Detroit history as the Tigers beat the Toronto Blue Jays 2-0 on Saturday.

It's the ninth no-hitter in Tigers history and first since Spencer Turnbull blanked Seattle on May 18, 2021. And, it's the majors' first combined no-hitter in the regular season since three Houston Astros pitchers shut down the New York Yankees in June 2022.

Manning (3-1) struck out five, hit a batter and walked three in 6 2/3 innings, and Foley got four straight outs. Lange came in for the ninth and struck out Bo Bichette on three pitches. Brandon Belt lined out to center field, and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. grounded out to third on an 0-2 pitch, setting off a celebration at the mound.

Spencer Torkelson had an RBI double and Kerry Carpenter added an RBI triple for the Tigers, all in the first inning.

Kevin Gausman (7-5) allowed five hits, two walks and two runs, with seven strikeouts.

Carpenter made a spectacular catch in the fourth inning, sliding in foul territory to catch Guerrero's pop fly down the right-field line. Báez made a big play in the sixth, racing into left field to catch Bichette's fly ball with left fielder Zach McKinstry shifted to left-center field.

AP

Detroit Tigers relief pitcher Alex Lange celebrates with catcher Eric Haase (13) after the final out against the Toronto Blue Jays in the ninth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, July 8, 2023, in Detroit.

REDS 8, BREWERS 5

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Elly De La Cruz became the first Cincinnati player since 1919 to steal second, third and home in the same inning in a victory over Milwaukee in a matchup of the NL West's top teams.

De La Cruz broke a 5-5 tie in the seventh inning with a two-out RBI single off Elvis Peguero. He stole second and then, on a 1-2 pitch from Peguero (1-2), swiped third without a throw. The rattled reliever caught the ball from his catcher in front of the mound and turned his back as he walked slowly toward the rubber. Pausing only to put his helmet back on, De La Cruz walked down the third base line, broke into a sprint and easily beat Peguero's rushed throw to the plate.

De La Cruz has 16 stolen bases in 30 games and went 2 for 5 to improve his batting average to .328.

Lucas Sims (3-1) threw 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief, Jonathan India's sacrifice fly in the ninth gave the division-leading Reds a three-run lead, and All-Star Alexis Diaz got the last three outs for his 26th save in 27 chances.

BRAVES 6, RAYS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—All-Star Spencer Strider struck out 11 and won his seventh straight decision as majors-leading Atlanta beat Tampa Bay for its 20th victory in 22 games.

Strider (11-2) improved to 7-0 over his last eight starts and boosted his majors-leading strikeout total to 166.

Sean Murphy homered for the third straight game, a three-run shot that finished a four-run, fourth-inning against rookie Taj Bradley (5-5), who held the Braves hitless until Ronald Acuña Jr. opened the fourth with a double.

The Braves have homered in every outing since June 11, the longest active streak in the majors. They also had a 25-game streak in 1998 and lead the majors with 168 homers — the record for a team before the All-Star break.

DODGERS 10, ANGELS 5

LOS ANGELES (AP)—All-Star Mookie Betts hit his 10th leadoff homer—most in the first half in major league history—and Los Angeles hit five homers for the second straight game in a win over the slumping Angels, who have lost 10 straight in the Freeway Series.

Max Muncy, Freddie Freeman, J.D. Martinez and pinch-hitter David Peralta also homered for the Dodgers. Michael Grove (1-2) got the victory with six innings of relief. He allowed four runs and six hits, struck out six and walked one.

Angels All-Star Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 32nd homer, a 433-foot, two-run blast in the seventh. He came up a double shy of hitting for the cycle. The two-way superstar singled in the first and tripled in the third.

Reid Detmers (2-6) gave up seven runs and six hits, struck out four and walked one as the Angels dropped their season-high fifth straight to fall below .500 at 45-46.

ASTROS 3, MARINERS 2

HOUSTON (AP)—Martín Maldonado hit a tiebreaking solo home run in the eighth inning to send Houston past Seattle.

The game was tied at 2-all with one out in the eighth when Maldonado sent a slider from Andrés Muñoz (2-2) 371 feet to left-center to put the Astros on top.

The Mariners squandered a chance to take the lead in the top of the inning when Hector Neris (5-2) struggled with control. But he escaped the bases-loaded jam by striking out pinch-hitter Cal Raleigh on three pitches, retiring pinch-hitter Mike Ford on a pop out and fanning José Caballero to end the inning.

Kyle Tucker doubled with an RBI and Alex Bregman drove in a run for the Astros, who snapped a two-game skid and collected their 50th win of the season.

Caballero had two hits and an RBI for the Mariners, who were 2 for 8 with runners in scoring position and stranded 10 runners.

GUARDIANS 10, ROYALS 6

CLEVELAND (AP)—Top prospect Gavin Williams struck out seven in 5 2/3 innings for his first victory in the majors and brothers Bo and Josh Naylor drove in two runs apiece as Cleveland beat Kansas City and moved into first place in the AL Central.

Williams (1-1) gave up three runs on eight hits and walked one in his fourth start.

Both Naylors had two singles and a double as the Guardians had a season-high 18 hits, taking over first place in the division from Minnesota at 45-44. Josh Bell went 3 for 3 with two walks and two RBIs, and Amed Rosario had three hits in Cleveland's third consecutive victory.

Bobby Witt Jr. went 3 for 5 with a solo homer, RBI triple and stolen base for Kansas City, which is 0-6 on its seven-game trip. Royals starter Brady Singer (5-8) worked five innings, allowing six runs on a career-high 13 hits while striking out three.

YANKEES 6, CUBS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Giancarlo Stanton hit a homer in the first inning and added a two-run shot after a video review in the fifth, leading New York past Chicago.

Josh Donaldson hit his 10th homer and Harrison Bader hit a two-run double as the Yankees avoided their third four-game losing streak this season.

Gerrit Cole (9-2) gave up a two-run homer to former Yankee Mike Tauchman on his final batter and allowed three runs and five hits in 7 1/3 innings.

Drew Smyly (7-6) allowed four runs and six hits in four innings.

ORIOLES 6, TWINS 2

MINNESOTA (AP)—Adam Frazier had a two-run single in a six-run second inning and Tyler Wells worked six solid innings as Baltimore beat Minnesota.

Baltimore had all six of its hit and all of its runs in the second inning on the way to its fourth consecutive victory. Wells (7-4) allowed six hits and struck out four in winning for the first time in four starts.

Donovan Solano had three doubles for the Twins.

Sonny Gray (4-3) had his winless streak extend to a dozen starts since April 30—just three losses—allowing a season-high six earned runs and six hits.

CARDINALS 3, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Miles Mikolas pitched seven efficient innings, Jordan Walker hit a solo homer in the ninth inning and St. Louis beat Chicago.

Mikolas (5-5) allowed four hits—all singles—in his first win since May 30. The right-hander struck out six and walked none, throwing 71 of his 95 pitches for strikes. Giovanny Gallegos finished the seven-hitter for his seventh save.

White Sox right-hander Touki Toussaint (0-2) allowed five singles in five innings. He struck out five and walked one.

Chicago dropped to 10-18 in its past 28 games.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, PIRATES 2, 10 INNINGS

PHOENIX (AP)—Corbin Carroll singled with the bases loaded in the 10th inning for NL West-leading Arizona in a win over Pittsburgh.

Alek Thomas homered to tie it in the eighth, then singled in the tying run in the 10th against David Bednar (3-1). The infield hit followed a throwing error by Bednar on a bunt and scored automatic runner Dominic Canzone, making his major league debut. After Geraldo Perdomo sacrificed, Ketel Marte was intentionally walked and Carroll lined a single just fair down the right-field line.

Jared Triolo's single put the Pirates ahead in the top of the 10th against Scott McGough (1-6), who went the final two innings.

Arizona used seven pitchers in the bullpen game. They combined to allow four hits, two in the 10th, and had 15 strikeouts.

MARLINS 5, PHILLIES 3

MIAMI (AP)—Jorge Soler homered and hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly as Miami ended Philadelphia's franchise-record tying 13-game road winning streak.

Rookie Dane Myers had two hits and drove in two runs, and Garrett Cooper singled twice for the Marlins.

Phillies star slugger Bryce Harper exited after being struck on his surgically repaired right elbow by a pitch from Marlins starter Braxton Garrett in the third. Philadelphia manager Rob Thomson said after the game that X-rays on Harper's elbow were negative.

Luis Arraez didn't start, but had a pinch-hit, RBI single in the seventh, raising his major league-leading batting average to .388.

Garrett (5-2) was lifted after five innings. He allowed three runs, six hits, walked three and struck out three.

Ranger Suarez (2-4) took the loss, allowing eight hits and four runs, three earned, with four strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings.

RED SOX 10, ATHLETICS 3

BOSTON (AP)—Jarren Duran and Alex Verdugo hit two-run homers, and Masataka Yoshida had his sixth consecutive multi-hit game in Boston's win over MLB-worst Oakland.

Christian Arroyo and Duran each had three hits, Yoshida two and Duran scored three runs and drove in three for the Red Sox, who have won seven of eight.

Boston starter James Paxton (5-1) earned the win, while Brandon Walter earned his first save.

Manny Piña and Brent Rooker each hit a solo homer for Oakland, which fell to 25-66. Austin Pruitt (1-6), one of six Oakland pitchers in the game, took the loss.

GIANTS 5, ROCKIES 3

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Michael Conforto and Austin Slater hit two-run homers to lead San Francisco past Colorado.

Blake Sabol added an RBI single as San Francisco won for the 12th time in 13 games against the Rockies.

Alex Wood (4-3) tossed five scoreless innings in relief to earn his first home win of the season. He allowed three hits and a walk, striking out three. Camilo Doval pitched a scoreless ninth for his majors-leading 26th save.

Austyn Wynns homered for Colorado, which has lost 11 of its last 12 road games. Connor Seabold (1-6) was the loser.

NATIONALS 8, RANGERS 3

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jeimer Candelario and Joey Meneses hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning, Alex Call also went deep, and Washington snapped a five-game skid with a win over AL West-leading Texas.

Jake Irvin (2-5) earned his first victory since May 8 for Washington, which had lost 15 of its last 16 games at Nationals Park. Washington is an NL-worst 14-32 at home.

Josh Jung homered twice for Texas, which has lost seven of its last 10 games. Rangers starter Andrew Heaney (5-6) trailed 4-0 before recording an out.

Lillard hopes Summer League gives Blazers, Heat chance to talk trade

AP
Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard brings the ball up against the New York Knicks during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Damian Lillard's position has not and will not change: The seven-time All-Star wants to be traded to the Miami Heat.

Lillard's agent, Aaron Goodwin, confirmed that stance Thursday and said he hopes that the Portland Trail Blazers—the team that Lillard has spent the entirety of his 11-year NBA career with—can engage with the Heat on steps toward a deal in the coming days, especially with virtually everyone from the NBA gathering in Las Vegas for Summer League that starts on Friday.

The Trail Blazers publicly revealed this past weekend that Lillard had asked for a trade, an announcement that ended weeks of speculation about his future in Portland. Lillard had told the team that he wanted a chance to contend for a title; the Blazers have won only four playoff series in his 11 seasons and missed the playoffs in each of the last two years by wide margins.

"I'm hopeful that at least talks will initiate since they're all going to be in one place," Goodwin said. "That's my hope."

It will obviously take a significant package of players and picks to make any trade happen. Lillard will make almost $46 million this coming season and could make as much as $216 million over the next four years if he exercises his option for the 2026-27 season.

"The solution comes in Miami actually having a chance to sit down and talk with Portland," Goodwin said. "I think if they can ever sit down and get in a room, there could be a deal to be made."

Lillard averaged 32.2 points this past season, has averaged at least 24 points in each of the last eight seasons, and has an offensive ignitability that few players in the NBA possess.

He became just the seventh player in NBA history to score more than 70 points in a game when he finished with 71 against the Houston Rockets on Feb. 26. The other names on that list: Wilt Chamberlain (who did it five times), Kobe Bryant, David Thompson, David Robinson, Elgin Baylor and Donovan Mitchell.

All six of the other players on that list were between 23 and 28 when they had their games of 71 points or more; Lillard was 32, a clear indicator that—even after 11 NBA seasons—he's far from past his prime.

The Heat are the reigning Eastern Conference champions, have been to the NBA Finals twice in the last four years and have been in the East finals three times in that span. They have been contenders, and Lillard—alongside Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo—would only figure to make them even more of a title hopeful.

"Dame's position won't change," Goodwin said. "This entire situation was about building an opportunity for Portland to win or giving him another opportunity that he wants, which is Miami."

Swiatek advances at Wimbledon, says pressure is off

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—An avid reader, Iga Swiatek knows how to contextualize her Wimbledon experiences.

Her third-round exit last year after winning the French Open was a disappointment. The top-ranked Swiatek cleared that hurdle Friday at the All England Club, dispatching 30th-seeded Petra Martic 6-2, 7-5 to reach the fourth round.

"It's just a totally different chapter," the 22-year-old Pole said.

The four-time Grand Slam champion can reach her first Wimbledon quarterfinal when she faces 14th-seeded Belinda Bencic on Sunday.

Swiatek has said she felt a lot of pressure last year from high expectations and the 35-match winning streak she carried into Wimbledon.

"I do feel more relaxed. I think also because I won Roland Garros and I feel like after that the pressure is a little bit off because I reached my goal kind of for the season," she said. "I don't have to think about anything else other than playing. ... I feel like I have more kind of, I don't know, free space in my head to develop my game and to work on my skills on grass."

Unlike the men's side, where seven-time winner Novak Djokovic is a heavy favorite, the women's field is tougher to handicap.

The top three seeds—Swiatek, Aryna Sabalenka and defending champion Elena Rybakina—are showing signs of becoming a " Big Three."

Sabalenka, the Australian Open champion who was a Wimbledon semifinalist in 2021, advanced to the third round with a 2-6, 7-5, 6-2 win over Varvara Gracheva.

Madison Keys, who beat Viktorija Golubic 7-5, 6-3 to reach the third round, said the "Big Three" title is deserved.

"They are obviously at the top of the game right now, so I think it's a great term to describe the three of them," said the American, who is seeded 25th.

After the top three seeds, there's No. 4 Jessica Pegula, who advanced to the fourth round with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Elisabetta Cocciaretto.

Caroline Garcia of France became the highest-seeded woman to exit. The fifth-seeded player lost 7-6 (0), 4-6, 7-5 to 32nd-seeded Marie Bouzkova in the third round.

Ons Jabeur, the No. 6 seed and runner-up to Rybakina a year ago, needed only 45 minutes to get past Bai Zhuoxuan of China 6-1, 6-1 to reach the third round.

The Tunisian player was pleased with the win, of course, but also happy to talk about meeting David Beckham two days earlier.

"Oh, amazing. Such an amazing person," said Jabeur, a big soccer fan and a former player herself. "I was really looking forward to meet him. We talked about football, about his daughter, tennis in general. Him maybe watching a couple matches in U.S. So let's see."

Wembanyama gets some lessons from Kareem, Isiah Thomas at NBA Con

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Victor Wembanyama freely acknowledged that he was often confused in his first NBA Summer League game, going as far as to say that there were times when he didn't know what he was doing.

He's in good company.

Wembanyama shared the stage for a conversation on Saturday at NBA Con with a pair of champions, Hall of Famers Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Isiah Thomas. And they may have given the San Antonio Spurs rookie a bit of solace by revealing that when they were breaking into the league, they had moments when they were lost as well.

"It takes a while. You have things to learn," Abdul-Jabbar told him on the stage during the 30-minute conversation that Thomas moderated, one of the featured attractions at the inaugural NBA Con. "But he's an intelligent young man. He'll get it done."

Hundreds of people crammed into a small space to hear the conversation; many more who couldn't get in stretched their phones near the doors, desperate for even a look.

"It truly means something to me that such great people were in attendance for my game yesterday," Wembanyama said, seated to the left of Abdul-Jabbar and Thomas. "It just means a lot and shows who the people who care truly are and who the people who are interested in the new generation are. You said it's an honor for you to be with us, but it's truly an honor for me to be with you two guys."

Wembanyama had nine points on 2-for-13 shooting, eight rebounds, five blocked shots and three assists in his Summer League debut on Friday night while helping San Antonio beat the Charlotte Hornets. He airballed a couple of 3s, got dunked on once, and there were times he knew he was making a mistake.

Worry not, Thomas and Abdul-Jabbar told him. They were rookies once, too.

"As of today, I'm just a rookie," Wembanyama said. "I don't have one NBA game in me. I just got everything to learn. The truth was, yeah, I didn't know what I was doing. And for the next games, I'm probably not going to know what I'm doing, too. But it's going to come as time goes and hopefully we'll be ready for the season.

"I'm still a kid. I'm just ready to learn."

Abdul-Jabbar told him a story of one of his first games as a rookie, playing against the Chicago Bulls. The Bulls had a big man named Tom Boerwinkle; Abdul-Jabbar said he went home in a wheelchair that night with a sprained ankle after playing the Bulls.

Wembanyama is entering a bit more friendly league, Abdul-Jabbar said.

"You should be thankful for that," Abdul-Jabbar told him. "They had guys in the league named Bad News. That should give you an idea of what it was about. I'm happy for you that you're coming into a league that appreciates you and they'll do all they can to make sure you don't get waylaid by someone out on the court just because they want a job."

Wembanyama has been greeted by big, appreciative crowds every step of the way in the early days of his NBA journey. Summer League has sold out its first three days in Las Vegas, and Wembanyama drew a completely packed house for his debut.

He's appreciative, he said.

"I see a lot of Spurs jerseys. I even see a French team jersey," he said, as Abdul-Jabbar and Thomas looked at the crowd and nodded. "Yesterday during the game, every time I got the ball I heard the people start cheering. It's really all this love, all this attention. ... I think it's the best thing the fans can do for me as a rookie, as a new player in the NBA, just that love. I hope I can give it back over the years and I think the best way for me to give it back to the fans is get some rings."

That's when Thomas—a two-time NBA champion—asked the six-time NBA champion in Abdul-Jabbar to explain to Wembanyama what it'll take to get those rings.

"The difficulty is learning how you can best contribute to a winning effort," Abdul-Jabbar told him. "That's what you've got to learn how to do with your skill set. You will find out what that is basically in preseason. You'll find out a lot about that."

And before the conversation wrapped, Abdul-Jabbar gave the rookie one more piece of advice.

"Be careful. Save your money," Abdul-Jabbar told him. "And 20 years from now, you'll say, 'Hey, I'm glad I listened to Kareem.'"

2nd Annual Michelob Ultra Beer Mile registration opens

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A total of 99 signed up for the inaugural Michelob Ultra Beer Mile last year.

International Beer Day is Aug. 4, 2023 and Run Saipan is partnering once again with Marpac and Saipan Vegas Country Club to celebrate it with the 2nd Annual Michelob Ultra Beer Mile. The beer mile is equal parts gastric challenge and athletic endeavor.

Everyone 21 and older is welcome to join the 2023 edition of the Run Saipan Beer Mile, but space is limited to 120 runners so don't miss out by waiting too long.

"Help us in our continuing attempt to redefine carboloading! Spectators are welcome!" Run Saipan said.

The rules are simple: Drink one beer, run 400m, drink another beer, run 400m, drink a third beer, run 400m, drink a fourth beer and then take another 400m loop to finish the course. On the fourth lap, you will be rewarded with your race swag—a custom Beer Mile 500ml glass mug that you can drain and keep.

Run Saipan secretary and treasurer Ron Snyder urges everyone to pace themselves in this race. "The initial urge is to chug as fast as possible and run each lap as fast as possible. This is a bad move for most people. According to the Beer Mile rules at beermile.com, if you end up yawning in technicolor, you have to run a penalty lap. This limits your ability to compete for the grand prize."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 2nd Annual Michelob Ultra Beer Mile will be held on Aug. 4 at the Saipan Vegas Country Club.

Marpac will be bringing prizes and Saipan Vegas will be awarding the fastest male and female runner with a weekend for two Friday and Saturday nights in the Saipan Vegas hotel family rooms with free unlimited golf (subject to availability) and a $25 free play voucher for the game room.

Each participant will receive a custom beer mug as they start their fourth lap. Spectators and runners alike are invited to come to the Saipan Country Club Tiki Bar after the race for drink specials and some good running stories.

Last year, Leith Poole and Tammy Ackerman topped the inaugural Michelob Ultra Beer Mile after chugging four brewskis and running four 400m increments in times of 8:03 and 9:01, respectively.

Run Saipan reminds you to drink responsibly and not operate a motor vehicle when under the influence.

To register, copy and paste the registration page: https://raceroster.com/events/2023/70407/the-run-saipan-beer-mile-23.

A beer mile is a 1-mile race invented by Canadian runners in 1989. It combines the physical challenge of interval training with the skill of speed drinking. The beer mile required runners to consume a 12-oz. beer before each quarter mile lap, i.e. four beers and four laps. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
To register for the 2nd Annual Michelob Ultra Beer Mile, copy and paste the registration page: https://raceroster.com/events/2023/70407/the-run-saipan-beer-mile-23.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tania Tan, far left, poses with some of her teammates in the CNMI atheltics' track team during the Oceania Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex last June 24.

TANIA

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again about it, Tan said, "I actually didn't even know I broke it until Robin [Sapong] told me the next day [after the race]. I went into the race just wanting to do my best, and somehow I also managed to break the outdoor 3K record."

She added, "Hopefully I can continue to progress, PR, and get faster."

Tan also holds the outdoor record time in the 5,000m run which she reset last April 2022 in the Colonial Relays at 18:51.02 and holds the outdoor 10,000m record which she also reset last April 2022 in the Metropolitan Championships during her time at Fordham University.

D-9ERS

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6-5 game.

However, the D-9ers still had some tricks up their sleeves as they scored two after singles by Atalig and Malwelbug in the fifth against Survivors pitcher Jason Reyes for a still close 7-6 lead.

The Survivors tried to rally in the last couple of innings, but were shut down in order by D-9ers pitcher Chris Gonzales to hold onto the one-run lead for the win. The D-9ers pitcher to start off the game was Jeremy Atalig.

The D-9ers are tied with the Survivors at 3-7 record.

MAUI

From page 20

gave him an auspicious start. He was then steady until hole No. 5 when he hit his second short shot into the hazard and had to take a penalty and ended up with a 3-over 7.

Luckily, he birdied hole No. 6 to minimize the damage and closed the front nine with a 41. Maui played steady in the back nine with a birdie in hole No. 13 and a bogey in hole No. 17 and a double in hole No. 18 for a 38 on the back and a gross score of 7-over par 79.

A total of 14 players took part in the Fil-Taga June Ace of the Month Tournament. The rest of the field, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Romy Cayetano (70), Jhun Cayetano (71), Henry Bautista (72), Edgas Abalos (73), Lito Mendoza (74), Albert Pajarillaga (74), Jess Yumul (74), Das Krishnan (75), Dan Ganacias (75), Tony Cabrera (78), and Freddie Cataluna (79).

In the par 3 competition, Pajarillaga won in hole No. 6, Juhn Cayetano in hole No. 8, Krishnan in hole No. 12, and Mendoza in hole No. 15.

With the win last June, Maui now joins Ganacias (January), Hak Chon Bae (February), Cabrera (March), Emil Padernal (April), and Cataluna (May) as early qualifiers for the season-ending Fil-Taga June Ace of the Month Tournament.

Manning, Foley, Lange toss 1st combined no-hitter in Tigers history.

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Tania breaks CNMI 3,000m record

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tania Tan reset the 3,000m CNMI record and placed second in the event during the Oceania Cup last June 24 at the Oleai Sports Complex.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Long distance runner Tania Tan broke her CNMI 3,000m record during the Oceania Cup last June 24 at the Oleai Sports Complex.

She broke her previous record of 10:58.76 and set the new standards by shaving off more than five seconds at 10:53.08.

Tan last set the record in March 2022 in the Stony Brook Snow Flake Classic when she was a junior in college.

The new college graduate from Fordham University flew back home after her graduation just in time for the Oceania Cup and ran in the 3,000m and 1,500m races.

Tan not only broke the record but placed a close second to Australia's Leyla Liakatos who finished with a time of 10:43.89; third place was Polynesia's Amandine Matera at 11:12.57; Melanesia's Mary Tenge was fourth at 11:12.97; fifth was Micronesia's Keira Paz at 12:20.22; and sixth was the CNMI's Tiana Cabrera with 13:18.08.

In the 1,500m race, Tan placed fifth with a time of 5:07.31. First place went to Australia's Lily Mather with 4:42.10; Australia's Nyree Hamilton was second at 4:42.47; Melanesia's Scholastica Herman was third at 4:52.47; fourth was Polynesia's Amandine Matera at 5:03.71; Melanesia's Mary Tenge was sixth with 5:13.05.

The 22-year-old, who just celebrated her birthday recently, initially said she didn't break her record in a previous interview, she was told later that she actually did break it.

When she was interviewed

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Maui marvelous in June monthly tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Wil Maui topped the Fil-Taga Golfer Association June Ace of the Month Tournament last June 24 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The 11-handicapper fired a net score of 68 following a gross of 79 (41-38) to rule the monthly tournament.

Maui

The 63-year-old economics and statistics teacher at Northern Marianas College beat Bert Suda and Ronnie Santos who finished with identical net scores of 70 for the June ace.

Suda, however, took second place after beating Santos in a scorecard tiebreaker. Suda finished with a gross score of 89 (45-44), while Santos finished with an 87 (44-43).

Maui said he's thrilled to have won the June Ace of the Month Tournament.

"Now I qualify for the Ace of Aces and I'm now on vacation in Palau, from July 3 to Aug. 1. I dedicate the win to my two playing partners—Bert and Romy (Cayetano). It was great fun playing with the two of them that day."

He added that last June 23 at the Kingfisher Golf Links was perfect for a round of golf.

"The weather was fair and with some winds and light rain. The key to my victory was avoiding penalties (out of bounds or water) and minimizing 3-putts."

Maui birdied hole No 1 with a put from the fringe, which

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D-9ers slip past Survivors, 7-6

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The D-9ers finally raked in their third win in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League season against the Survivors last Thursday, 7-6, after two go-ahead singles by John Atalig and Dave Malwelbug in the fifth inning to retake the lead and hold onto the win.

The game started off with a bang as the D-9ers' first three batters—Isaiah Lizama, Ben Lizama, and Tindin Deleon Guerrero—reached base and all scored. Giovanni Ayuyu hit an RBI single, while Derrick Sablan brought in the fourth run after a base hit.

Their offense didn't get the third out until the last batter of the lineup grounded out to the Survivors' shortstop for a 4-0 lead.

The Survivors tried to cut the lead in their at-bat and scored their first two lead-off batters after they both walked, stole two bases, and reached home on D-9ers fielding errors.

The D-9ers couldn't score in the second inning and only had a one run 4-3 lead after the Survivors scored one in their at-bat.

John Atalig then hit a double to get the D-9ers in scoring position and was then brought home after Robert Tudela hit an RBI single for a 5-3 lead.

The Survivors still had a chance to cut the lead and they actually overtook the D-9ers after they tacked on three runs in the fourth for a

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LEIGH GASES
D-9ers pitcher Giovani Ayuyu is seen in this file photo during one of their games in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.